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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

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20 June 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 20 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Burdens on Local Government

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): Between 1997 and 2010, council tax bills doubled. One of the reasons for this was central Government imposed unfunded or under-funded burdens on local authorities.

The coalition Government are committed to ensuring that the net additional costs of all such new burdens from central Government policy or initiatives are fully funded to help keep council tax down.

The new burdens doctrine sets out the factors that Departments should take into account when considering the costs and savings to local authorities arising from changes to policies and programmes. It applies to all Departments and covers all local authorities, including police authorities, fire and rescue authorities and local precepting authorities.

As part of the Government's commitment to this principle, and in the spirit of greater transparency in Government, today I am publishing a copy of the Whitehall internal guidance on this issue: "The New Burdens Doctrine, Guidance for Government Departments". A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and it is also available on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/newburdens2011.

HEALTH

Government Response to NHS Future Forum

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): As I informed the House on 14 June 2011, the Government have accepted the core recommendations of the NHS Future Forum's report. A list of the key changes the Government intend to make as a result has already been placed in the Library.

I have today laid before Parliament "Government Response to the NHS Future Forum", Cm 8113, a detailed explanation of how the Government plan to implement improvements to their plans for NHS modernisation. Some, but not all, of these changes require amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill.

On 16 June the Government tabled a motion to recommit the relevant parts of the Health and Social Care Bill to a Public Bill Committee. The House will debate this motion tomorrow.

I am also laying before Parliament later today "Government Response to the House of Commons Health Select Committee Fifth Report of Session 2010-11: Commissioning", Cm 8100.

"Government Response to the NHS Future Forum", Cm 8113 is in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. Copies of "Government Response to the House of Commons Health Select Committee Fifth Report of Session 2010-11: Commissioning", Cm 8100, will be available later today.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Appointment of National Employment Savings Trust Corporation Trustee Members

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce the appointment of the following trustee members of NEST Corporation:

Mr Iraj Amiri

Mrs Sharon Darcy

Mr Nigel Stanley

These appointments will take effect from 20 June.

The appointments will bring a wide breadth of knowledge and skills to NEST Corporation, particularly in the areas of representing the interests of consumers and financial management.

The new trustee members will join the current chair and six trustee members who were appointed last year. Together, they are the trustee of NEST and as such they have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of scheme beneficiaries. Trustee members are also responsible for setting the strategic direction and objectives for NEST.

NEST Corporation is the trustee body responsible for running the NEST scheme. It was set up under the Pensions Act 2008 as a non-departmental public body (NDPB) that operates at arm's length from Government and is accountable to Parliament through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 21 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Consumer Institutions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I am today publishing a consultation on proposals to reform the landscape of consumer institutions. A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the BIS website.

The Government's objective in pursuing and implementing consumer policy is to empower consumers to make wise decisions when purchasing goods and services. Empowered consumers embrace new products and services and demand choice, thereby stimulating competition and innovation from traders as well as high standards of consumer care. It is the investment and quest for efficiency which drives innovation and growth in the economy. Consumer empowerment is therefore a vital part of the Government's growth agenda as well as a key element of its broader citizen empowerment mission. (The Department has also led the development of a cross-Government empowerment strategy which was published in April as part of the growth review.)

In this context, the consultation document sets out proposed reforms to the UK's consumer institutions (the scope of the consultation excludes those institutions focused solely on financial services or on public services such as health). These reforms are designed to strengthen the front line for consumer empowerment and protection while cutting down the complexity, confusion and duplication that accompanies the proliferation of bodies.

The proposals set out in the consultation document have been guided by the following objectives:

Reducing complexity of the consumer landscape—At present, there is a plethora of publicly funded bodies involved in consumer advice, representation and enforcement. Not all of these enjoy wide public recognition, and it may not be obvious to consumers where they should go to get the advice or redress they need. The Government therefore want to simplify and streamline the institutional landscape.

Strengthening the effectiveness of consumer enforcement—Effective enforcement of the law is essential to protect consumers from rogue traders and unfair market practices. A recent National Audit Office (NAO) report has identified the costs to consumers, and hence the economy, of sharp practices as £6.6 billion. At present, responsibilities for enforcement are split between local trading standards and the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). Trading standards face particular challenges as a result of reduced local authority spending, while the NAO has pointed to problems of overlap and lack of co-ordination between trading standards and the OFT. The Government therefore want to clarify responsibilities and ensure better use of limited enforcement resources through more effective leadership and integration of effort around the country.

More cost-efficient delivery, closer to the consumer front line—Ensuring the cost-effectiveness of consumer advice, representation and enforcement is increasingly critical as public resources become more constrained. Streamlining bodies and maximising the benefits to be achieved by linking national activity to local intelligence and front-line delivery of advice and enforcement is one of the ways in which this can be achieved.

In order to achieve these objectives I am proposing that responsibility in future for each aspect of consumer advice, representation and enforcement should be clear and should rest principally with one of three key institutions:

The Citizens Advice Service comprising Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland. The Government propose that almost all central Government funding for consumer information, advice, advocacy and education (except on consumer finance) will transfer to Citizens Advice which enjoys high recognition and trust among the public as well as a track record of effective advocacy. The Citizens Advice Service would become the key consumer advocate for the Government.

Trading Standards comprising Local Authority Trading Standards Services (LATSS), the Trading Standards Institute (TSI), the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) and the support infrastructure offered by the Local Government Group. The Government propose to deploy national Government funding to facilitate a more integrated approach to national and cross-boundary threats. This activity would be more effectively co-ordinated at national level by chief trading standards officers to ensure that enforcement gaps do not arise and that activity overall is better targeted.

The proposed new *Competition and Markets Authority* to be created by merging the OFT and the Competition Commission, will play a key role in ensuring that markets are operating fairly and in the interests of consumers. It will have powers to investigate markets in which there are or may be structural problems and to use competition or consumer law to resolve these.

The first two of these groups have high public awareness and trust levels. Their activities reach very large numbers of consumers in practical ways.

The consultation proposes: transferring the functions of consumer focus to the Citizens Advice Service; transferring most of the consumer enforcement functions from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to Local Authority Trading Standards Services; and transferring the OFT's information, education and advice functions (including the consumer direct helpline) to the Citizens Advice Service.

As a consequence of transferring its functions, consumer focus would be abolished; it is listed in schedule 1 of the Public Bodies Bill currently in the House of Commons.

Consumer policy is reserved but a number of the proposals in relation to trading standards may be applied differently in Scotland as responsibility for local authorities is devolved. BIS has produced this consultation following discussions with devolved Administrations and taking account of their views.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

City Status Competition (Dumfries)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): In the written ministerial statement I made on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 74WS, Dumfries was listed as having entered the competition for city status. The documentation sent to the Cabinet Office clearly stated that the bid had been submitted by Dumfries

and Galloway council, a statement that was accepted in good faith. It has since become apparent that the bid was not submitted by the council. As all applications for the civic honours competition must be submitted by the relevant local authority, the application will not be considered further as part of the competition.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fukushima (Interim Report)

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): I have today responded to the three recommendations for Government contained in the chief nuclear inspector's interim report on events at the Fukushima nuclear site in Japan.

I welcome the findings and recommendations in Dr Weightman's interim report and commend him and his team for the important work that they have undertaken so far in pulling together information and lessons from the events in Japan.

In the response the Government undertake to:

- continue to work with international partners in the G8, G20 and IAEA to ensure that information is shared in a timely and open manner in the event of any future global nuclear event;
- carry out a review of the Japanese response to the events at Fukushima and identify any lessons for UK emergency planning by the end of 2011; and
- review the UK's own national nuclear emergency arrangements to ensure that they are as robust as possible and can deal effectively with prolonged nuclear incidents, and update guidance before the chief nuclear inspector's final report.

Copies of the Government's response have been placed in Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fruit and Vegetable Exceptional Support Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): On 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 49WS, I informed the House about the disruption of the EU fruit and vegetables market and the impact on growers of the consequences of the E. coli outbreak in Germany, including a fall in consumer confidence and the import ban on EU produce imposed by countries including Russia. I told the House of discussions in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 7 June of exceptional measures to address the situation and support growers, and of proposals put to the EU Fruit and Vegetables Management Committee.

On 14 June, the Management Committee agreed a European Commission proposal which came into effect on 18 June and I wish to inform the House that we have launched a scheme to implement the resultant measure in the United Kingdom. The scheme is being run by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and it is open for applications now. The EC measure is time limited and it is important that those affected by it are aware that the scheme will be in place only until Thursday 30 June.

The main features of the scheme are as follows:

- It provides aid for the withdrawal of produce from the market, non-harvesting and green harvesting (meaning premature harvesting for disposal) of specified produce, the markets for which have been most affected.
- It is open both to producer organisations (POs) and to producers who are not members of a PO, who may make arrangements with a PO or failing that, apply direct to the RPA and be registered with them.
- The specified crops are tomatoes, lettuce and endives, cucumbers, sweet peppers and courgettes.
- In the UK, it applies to withdrawal and harvesting operations notified to the RPA between the 18 June and 30 June 2011.
- Maximum rates of aid for each crop are set out in the regulation, representing about half the normal market price for such produce in June.
- The producer notifies the RPA in advance of the intention to withdraw produce so that an inspection can take place to verify quantities, compliance with standards etc., and agree an approved disposal route.
- Applications for aid must be lodged with the RPA by 6pm on 30 June.
- RPA will notify the EC on 18 July of the quantities of produce withdrawn in the UK.
- The EC will calculate the total of applications across the EU. If the aid would exceed the scheme budget of €210million, it will set a reduction coefficient to be applied to all claims.
- Payments to producers must be made by 15 October 2011, but the first payments are planned to commence late in July.

Full guidance is available on the RPA website, together with the notification form for growers to use as part of the procedures.

The scheme differs from the proposal described in my earlier statement in respect of the inclusion of endives and support for green harvesting. Beyond those details, however, it is important to note that that the EU measure we have agreed is no longer based on a possible first-come, first-served basis, but provides for claims for aid to be treated equitably across all member states. It is not possible at this stage to judge whether the scheme will reach the budget ceiling but if it did, any reduction would be applied at the same rate to all claims. Moreover, as I set out above, the scheme we are implementing will also be open to all growers whether or not they are a member of a producer organisation.

I welcome the measure as a contribution to restoring the normal operation of the market and bringing to an end a situation in which UK growers, at the peak of their season for these crops, are facing huge commercial challenges and financial threats not related to the competitiveness or quality of their produce but as a consequence of a crisis for which they cannot be blamed. The E. coli outbreak hit consumer confidence and reduced demand and led to the imposition of trade barriers by Russia and other countries, with the damaging consequences for our wholesale markets in particular which I have described to the House. It is unfortunate that despite accurate reports that an agreement had been made to lift the Russian ban, this was subject to a certification process, which has yet to be agreed, so de facto the ban remains in place.

While the newly launched scheme does not address all the aspirations that have been raised, in particular, for full retrospective compensation for losses nor measures for the wider supply chain, I believe that it does represent practical and substantial help for growers and a viable route to reduce and undo the disruption to markets, by, for example, reducing the flow into our wholesale markets of surplus produce from other member states, as well as the immediate impacts here.

The contribution by EU taxpayers via funds which were already part of the European agriculture guarantee fund (common agricultural policy) existing budget, will thus help to restore the functioning of the market.

My understanding is that UK consumers have continued to support UK produce and I hope they will continue to do so. We will continue to work with growers and their organisations to deliver the benefits intended by this scheme and to move the industry on to a more stable situation in which quality and competitiveness will deliver the success it deserves.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Private Military and Security Companies

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Henry Bellingham): On 9 March 2011, I announced that, following a bidding process, the Government would be entering further discussions with Aerospace Defence and Security (ADS) to determine the next steps for ensuring the implementation of a robust code and monitoring regime for UK-based private military and security companies (PMSCs).

I can now confirm that following further consultations, ADS have been appointed the Government's partner in developing and implementing UK national standards for PMSCs. ADS have established a special interest group, the security in complex environments group (SCEG), which will support the Government in the transparent regulation of companies which operate in this sector. Membership of the SCEG is open to all UK-based PMSCs who have signed the international code of conduct on regulation for private security providers.

We are in the forefront of countries working to establish national standards derived from the international code which was signed in Geneva in November 2010. One hundred and twenty-five PMSCs, of which 45 are UK-based, have now signed up to the international code and more are in the process of joining. At an international level, the UK, along with the Swiss, US and Australian Governments is now working with NGO and industry partners according to a published work plan to establish a mechanism to monitor compliance with the code. Each stage of the work plan is open to public consultation and can be accessed through the international code of conduct's website: www.icoc-psp.org. There will be no duplication between UK national and international standards.

The UK Government will use their leverage as a key buyer of PMSC services to promote compliance with the international code and to encourage other PMSC clients to do likewise.

HEALTH

Winterbourne View Private Hospital

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Paul Burstow): I promised to update the House about ongoing activity in relation to Winterbourne View private hospital.

The House will wish to be aware that steps to assure the welfare of patients at Winterbourne View are progressing well. Commissioners are arranging alternative placements. Most patients have now been moved and the remainder will leave Winterbourne View shortly following a full review of each individual's needs. There will be no new admissions to this hospital and enforcement action is being taken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The multi-agency safeguarding process led by South Gloucestershire council is well under way. There is a range of advocacy arrangements in place and Castlebeck Care report that it has commissioned advocacy services for all patients in its care. Support is being considered on an individual basis at Winterbourne View through a multi-agency care planning process and independent advocacy.

The House will know that Castlebeck Care, South Gloucestershire council, the NHS and CQC have initiated investigations into their procedures and actions. The Department of Health will review the results of these and I will report back to Parliament at the completion of that review.

CQC expects to complete its investigation of all Castlebeck Care's registered services by 1 July. Additionally CQC has started an internal audit and a human resources investigation, which will be finalised shortly. CQC will inspect rigorously a sample of hospitals for people with learning disabilities.

Following these inspections CQC is also exploring how it might do a wider review of the different models of learning disability provision. CQC is being advised on this work by a stakeholder group and will share the proposals on its planning and methodology with the Department of Health and Ministers as soon as possible.

CQC will also conduct an organisational review of actions which will look at the implications of events at Winterbourne View for the way in which CQC operates.

The South West strategic health authority is consulting the Department of Health on proposed terms of reference for its work to co-ordinate serious untoward incident investigations for all the English patients in Winterbourne View. This will investigate the NHS processes that operated in relation to the organisation of the care of patients treated in Winterbourne View.

Castlebeck Care has commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake an independent review of all its provision, and Debra Moore Associates to undertake a clinical review of its services.

South Gloucestershire council has appointed Margaret Flynn, chair of the Lancashire safeguarding adults board, to chair the serious case review, which will take evidence from all the agencies involved. The indicative time scale is four to six months.

I have today placed in the Library the terms of reference for the Department of Health's review. The review will receive independent advice from a range of experts in the field.

HOME DEPARTMENT

EHRC (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am today laying before Parliament the Equality and Human Rights Commission's 2009-10 annual report and accounts. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

JUSTICE

Sentencing Reform/Legal Aid

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): Today I will lay before Parliament the Government's responses to two important consultations on the future of the justice system—"Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", which was launched on 7 December 2010 and "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales", which was launched on 15 November 2010. I am also introducing the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to give effect to those measures requiring primary legislation. I will be making an oral statement this afternoon.

Protecting the public from crime, ensuring those who break the law face the consequences, and providing swift, cost-effective and fair access to justice are fundamental responsibilities of the state towards its citizens. Yet the last 13 years of Government have left a justice system in urgent need of reform.

In the area of criminal justice, a tidal wave of criminal justice legislation has left the system in crisis: neither punishing offenders properly for the crimes they have committed, nor giving adequate protection to the law-abiding public.

In civil justice, we have a system burdened by spiralling costs, slow court procedures, unnecessary litigation, and too limited an awareness of alternatives to court—all of which add to a fear of a compensation culture. In particular, our current system of legal aid too often encourages people to bring their problems before the courts, even when they are not the right place to provide good solutions and sometimes for litigation that people paying out of their own pocket would not have pursued.

The package of reforms I am bringing forward today aims to reform radically our justice system to focus it on fundamental priorities.

PUNISHMENT, REHABILITATION AND SENTENCING OF OFFENDERS

Within a year of leaving jail, half of prisoners (49%) are reconvicted of further crimes, creating new victims and harm to society. While they are behind bars prisoners face hours of enforced idleness, free from the discipline of hard work. Underpinning these problems are widespread drug and alcohol abuse, and poor mental health. The previous Government's responses have left a dysfunctional cycle of persistent crime, inadequate punishment and failed rehabilitation. Over 20 Criminal Justice Bills in 13 years created an unworkable sentencing framework and a statute book littered with over-prescriptive law that undermined the expertise of professionals.

The consultation set out wide-ranging plans to deliver tougher punishment, to introduce a rehabilitation revolution to prevent offenders committing further crime, and to ensure that the sentencing framework is sensible and workable. The Government have listened carefully to the points raised in more than 1,200 submissions and are seeking to take forward measures under five themes, including:

Punishment

Creating a working week in prison of up to 40 hours instead of enforced idleness.

Introducing tougher, properly enforced community punishments. This includes: allowing courts to impose longer curfews; enabling courts to ban overseas travel; and properly enforced financial penalties, including seizing assets from those who do not pay.

Introducing a mandatory custodial sentence for knife possession in aggravated circumstances.

Payback

Creating more ways in which offenders make reparation. We will begin by implementing the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 and legislating to extend our powers to deduct and use money earned by prisoners to support victims; and

Overhauling unpaid work obligations so that offenders work longer hours, carrying out purposeful, unpaid activity that benefits their local community.

Progression

Getting more offenders off drugs and alcohol for good, by piloting an initial five drug recovery wings and by cracking down on the use of illicit drugs in prison. The MoJ will also work closely with the Department of Health to tackle inappropriate use of prison to house low-risk individuals with mental illness.

Extending the use of payment by results to cut reoffending, with services delivered by the voluntary, independent and public sectors. Already, at HMP Doncaster the provider, Serco, will pay back 10% of the contract price unless they reduce reoffending by 5% points from current levels. In July six new pilots will begin in areas including Greater Manchester and London.

Transparency

Opening up justice so that the public has a clearer view of how the system is working for them.

Creating a more proportionate justice system, focusing resources where they will be most effective, including creating a clear national framework for the use of out of court disposals, reforming the use of remand, and reducing the number of foreign national offenders. We will also conduct an urgent review of the indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection with a view to replacing the current IPP regime with a much tougher determinate sentencing framework.

Clarifying the law on self-defence.

Alongside these measures, there should be no misunderstanding about things the Government have never proposed and are not doing. Contrary to some reports, the Government have never proposed targets to reduce the number of prison places, abolish short sentences or the mandatory life sentence.

What all the proposals we are taking forward amount to is a clear break by the Government from the mistakes of the past. By implementing this bold but realistic package of reforms, we are seeking to deliver a system which effectively punishes the guilty while substantially improving the national scandal of our reoffending rates. They should also reduce costs and improve delivery. This is a new, more intelligent course for the criminal justice system and one that we anticipate will make a tangible difference to addressing crime and helping victims in England and Wales.

REFORM OF LEGAL AID

We are also committed to overhauling our system of civil justice, including through an independent review of family justice, wider access to alternatives to court, measures to streamline civil justice, a criminal justice system efficiency programme and improvements to the "no win, no fee" conditional fee regime. The overall aim is a fundamental shift in the justice system towards greater effectiveness and efficiency—and a move away from the sorry situation in which the average citizen dreads recourse to the law.

Legal aid reform is a crucial element of this wide-ranging agenda. The current system of support too often encourages people to bring their problems before courts. In addition,

legal aid has expanded into areas far beyond its original scope. It is now among the most expensive systems in the world, second only to Northern Ireland, costing over £2 billion a year, or £39 per head of population compared with £8 per head in New Zealand, a country with a broadly similar legal system, and as low as £5 per head in some EU countries. In the current fiscal climate, this is simply unsustainable.

The proposals in the consultation set out to address these problems by: ensuring access to public funding in those cases that most require it; encouraging early resolution of disputes instead of unnecessary conflict; and improving affordability and value for money for the taxpayer.

Our plans attracted more than 5,000 submissions. Following careful consideration, today's response makes some significant changes in matters of detail, but seeks to take forward the substance of most of the reforms published in November, including:

Retaining routine availability of legal aid for cases where people's life or liberty is at stake, where they are at risk of serious physical harm, or immediate loss of their home, or where their children may be taken into care. Following consultation, we are strengthening specific provisions to ensure availability in private family cases for victims of domestic violence, for children at risk of abuse or abduction and for special educational needs cases.

Pressing ahead with introducing a more targeted civil and family scheme. Prioritising critical areas means making clear choices about availability elsewhere. Legal aid will no longer routinely be available for most private family law cases, clinical negligence, employment, immigration, some debt and housing issues, some education cases, and welfare benefits.

People will instead use alternative, less adversarial means of resolving their problems (notably, in divorce cases, where the taxpayer will still fund mediation). Fundamental rights to access to justice will be protected through retention of certain areas of law within scope and a new exceptional funding scheme for excluded cases.

In sum, the Government intend to implement the substance of the legal aid reform package, refined in specific places. This constitutes an extensive set of very bold reforms, the overall effect of which should be to achieve significant savings while protecting fundamental rights of access to justice.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 22 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Regional Development Agencies

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I am pleased to announce that I have decided to extend terms of appointment for 24 existing RDA board members listed below until RDA closure.

RDA	*Board member*
Advantage West Midlands	John Crabtree OBE, Cllr Ken Taylor, Dr David Brown, Cllr Mike Whitby
East of England Development Agency	Shona Johnstone, Madeleine Russell, Robert Swann
Northwest Regional Development Agency	Vanda Murray, Dr John Stageman, Lord Smith of Leigh, Mrs Anne Selby
One Northeast	Kate Welch, Lord Shipley, Peter Jackson
South East England Development Agency	Pamela Charlwood, Leslie Dawson, Keith Mitchell
South West Regional Development Agency	Kelvyn Derrick, Ian Ducat
Yorkshire Forward	Barry Dodd OBE, Cllr Kath Pinnock, Mr Bill Adams, Mr Ajaz Ahmed, Mr John Vincent

I have agreed to these appointment extensions, 23 starting on the 14 December 2011 and one starting on 5 March 2012 for a period of no more than one year in order that the RDA boards can remain quorate until the expected closure of RDAs in March 2012.

I have placed further details of these appointment extensions, including biographies, in the Libraries of both Houses. I can confirm that the appointments were made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice.

UK Equity Markets (Competitiveness)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): My Department published a call for evidence in October 2010 entitled "A long-term focus for corporate Britain". The call for evidence responded to concerns that capital markets may be increasingly focused on the short-term to the detriment of long-term sustainable growth in the UK. The response to the call for evidence made it clear that, while the UK has strong equity markets, there is scope for improvement.

I have therefore invited Professor John Kay to carry out an independent review, which will examine investment in UK equity markets and its impact on the long-term performance and governance of UK quoted companies. This includes the actions of boards, shareholders and their agents; the impact of rules and practices; and the level of transparency and engagement in the investment chain. The review will also consider the impact of increasing fragmentation and internationalisation of UK share ownership. Professor Kay will be supported by an expert panel of investor and corporate practitioners.

I have placed copies of the terms of reference for the review in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Monthly Progress Report May 2011

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the seventh progress report on developments in Afghanistan.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of May.

Al-Qaeda founder and leader, Osama bin Laden, was killed by US forces in Pakistan on 2 May. His death, while significant, does not change our strategy in Afghanistan and we remain committed to our military, diplomatic and development work.

On 17 May the Prime Minister confirmed to the House of Commons Liaison Committee that, by February 2012, approximately 400 UK military personnel will have withdrawn from Afghanistan, following the conclusion of specific planned tasks. Over 200 of these troops have already been withdrawn. He emphasised that the UK remains the second largest troop contributor, operating in the hardest part of the country.

Good progress in Afghan uniformed police training and development continued to be made. Nevertheless, leadership training is challenging, owing to inconsistent support from Afghan district level leadership. The increasing number of Afghans wishing to serve in the Afghan national police, as officers, has enabled the Ministry of Interior to apply higher selection standards.

The Taliban's fighting season resumed in May. As expected, the number of violent incidents increased, as the insurgency attempted to regain lost momentum. Overall, levels of violence, although higher than those seen in April, are broadly in line with what we would expect for this time of year.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

BBC World Service

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In line with the Government's response to events in the middle east and north Africa and following the debate on 19 May, the FCO will provide some additional funding for the BBC World Service beyond that provided for in the 2010 spending review (SR10).

The context for the spending review was the fiscal legacy left by the previous Administration. This meant that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in line with other Government Departments, had to make difficult decisions. I therefore agreed total funding levels for BBC World Service of £253 million, £242 million and £238 million over the first three years of the SR10 period. After this time funding of BBC World Service will be transferred to the licence fee.

The original settlement was both fair and proportionate. A 16% real cut in funding over the period, while challenging, is consistent with the settlements provided to other publicly funded bodies. It kept the BBC World Service's share of the FCO family's overall budget at or above its 2007-8 level: in 2007-08 the proportion was 13%, and by the time the funding for the World Service transfers to the licence fee it would have been slightly under 14.4%. The World Service settlement was also proportionate to the savings the BBC will make as a whole under the licence fee settlement.

The settlement did present difficult challenges for the BBC World Service. It meant that the World Service has faced some hard choices and decisions, as have the FCO and the British Council. The Government have been looking carefully at what we can do to help. In March 2011 I announced a one-off contribution of £3 million towards World Service restructuring costs.

The BBC itself has also underlined their long-term commitment to the future of the BBC World Service through contributing significant funds, totalling £20 million over three years, towards World Service restructuring costs. I also welcome the BBC's recent agreement that the World Service will be able to reinvest the reduction in their planned contribution to the overall BBC pension deficit to mitigate the impact on services of the reduction in budget. I understand from the BBC that this should release an extra £9 million over three years for investment in services. One area they have identified as a priority for such funding is the continuation of the Hindi shortwave service. I was pleased that the BBC World Service had itself identified savings earlier in the year to enable a reduced Hindi shortwave service to continue, and I strongly welcome this additional support.

In line with the Government's response to events in the middle east and north Africa and following the debate in the House of Commons on 19 May, I asked the FCO to look again at whether there were other options open to us to provide support. We recognise that the world has changed since the settlement was announced in October last year—indeed since the World Service announced the subsequent changes to services, including some closures, on 26 January. In the debate on 19 May, a number of Members of Parliament highlighted the impact of the reduction in World Service funding on the BBC Arabic Service. It is right that we should look at ways in which we can assist the BBC Arabic Service to continue their valuable work in the region. So I have agreed that we will provide additional funding of £2.2 million per annum to enable the World Service to maintain the current level of investment in the BBC Arabic Service. This will increase the World Service's funding as a proportion of the FCO's budget to just over 14.5%.

In addition, the FCO is discussing providing funding from the Arab partnership initiative for specific projects proposed by the BBC Arabic Service or World Service Trust. Discussions are continuing about a number of projects which are designed to support the development of the media and wider civic society in the middle east and north Africa region which taken together may mean an additional investment of up to £1.65 million over the next two years.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has recently stated that his Department is discussing placing its relationship with the BBC World Service Trust on a longer-term and more strategic footing. Any support to the World Service Trust provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) will be classed as official development assistance (ODA) in line with the internationally agreed standard laid down by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). I believe that a proportion of the activities carried out by the World Service itself may also be eligible to be classified as ODA. The FCO is working with DFID to agree that any future ODA spend reported by the World Service is fully consistent with the OECD definition.

I have discussed this overall approach with the chairman of the BBC Trust and we have agreed that we will continue to work together to ensure that the World Service retains its global influence and reach in a rapidly changing world.

Deaths of Three British Citizens (Baghdad)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I would like to update the House in the case of the five British hostages who were kidnapped from the Ministry of Finance in Baghdad in May 2007. The House will recall that one of the hostages, Peter Moore, was released alive in December 2009.

The bodies of Jason Creswell and Jason Swindlehurst were returned in June 2009 and that of Alec Maclachlan in September 2009. More tragically, the last remaining hostage, Alan McMenemy, whom we believe to be dead, has yet to be returned, though we continue our efforts to bring him home.

The House will note that HM coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon, who is responsible for determining the cause of death, has now completed his inquest into the deaths of Mr Creswell, Mr Swindlehurst and Mr Maclachlan. HM coroner has recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. The evidence placed before the inquest shows quite clearly that these men were deliberately and brutally murdered by their captors.

I am aware that for the family of Alan McMenemy their suffering goes on. Let me reassure Alan's family, and the House, that we will continue our efforts to bring Alan home.

We understand that the Iraqis are investigating the circumstances of the kidnapping, which we hope will lead to justice for these men. I call upon those holding Alan to show compassion to his wife and children and to return him immediately.

I am sure the House joins me in extending our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these men, and our hope that Alan McMenemy will be returned soon.

TRANSPORT

Maritime Training Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Government's principal objective in supporting merchant navy training is to facilitate an adequate supply of UK maritime expertise to meet the nation's economic and strategic requirements, by assisting organisations providing merchant navy training. In this difficult economic period, the Government have decided that it is right to review the continuing requirement for Government support for training and skills development in this sector and how best to spend any continuing Government funding.

In my written ministerial statement of 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, I announced my intention to commission a review and I can confirm that today I have launched an invitation to tender. The successful bidder will present its findings to an independent panel, which will report to me by the end of the year and make practical recommendations on how the economic requirement for trained seafarers in the UK can be best met, having regard to current financial constraints.

The terms of reference for the review are as follows:

To review the UK requirement for trained seafarers at sea over the next decade;

To review the UK requirement for trained seafarers ashore over the next decade;

To examine the extent to which the above requirements have to be met by UK seafarers;

To review the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing funding arrangements and the future need for Government intervention to ensure the supply of trained seafarers;

To identify options for supporting the training of seafarers and make recommendations which address the issue of value for money and are reflective of future UK requirements for trained seafarers;

To examine whether previous training targets are reflective of future needs.

Roadside Facilities (England)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): This statement is to inform the House that following closure of the roadside facilities policy consultation on 2 July last year, I have reviewed the responses and I am introducing a change to the policy to permit the development of truckstops on the motorway network.

The consultation identified strong support from the haulage industry for the development of truckstops. Proposals for dedicated truckstop facilities will now be considered in the context of existing and/or proposed rest facilities on the strategic road network, and will be determined on their individual merit. This will include truckstop facilities that can be accessed direct from motorways—motorway truckstops—which are a type of facility not permitted until now. Where there is evidence to demonstrate that demand for lorry parking exceeds supply, the development of truckstop facilities at existing service areas would be viewed favourably. Proposals for motorway truckstops are unlikely to be supported if they would prevent a potential motorway service area (MSA) being built.

Detailed advice on the mandatory and permitted features of all categories of truckstop is set out in the table that is attached at appendix 1 to the written copy of my statement.

These changes supplement DfT Circular 01/2008 (April 2008). Aspects of policy not touched on in this statement will continue to apply.

I am currently considering ways to reduce regulation, increase competition and improve still further the quality of motorway service areas. To this end, I have instructed officials in my Department to identify those elements of the policy that might instead be better determined at a local level through the current planning system.

I have also instructed my officials to work with the Department for Communities and Local Government to consider how best to take these issues forward in the context of the national planning policy framework. Separately, we will produce an associated DfT technical note, setting out requirements in respect of road safety and operational issues.

This approach accords with the Government's twin aims of decentralisation and localism, reducing the burden of bureaucracy and strengthening local accountability. It will encourage competition and, through this, improve service for users.

APPENDIX 1

Truckstops serving the strategic road network—features and levels of provision.

Features and levels of provision	*Truck stops on Motorways*	*Truckstops signed from Motorways*	*Truckstops on All-Purpose Trunk Roads*
Opening times	24 hours a day, 365 days a year.	24 hours a day, 365 days a year.	Minimum 12 hours per day, every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
Provision of fuel.	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Provision of facilities to enable electric powered vehicle transfer (i.e. on-route exchange of un-charged vehicles for charged vehicles) or the exchange of used and charged battery cells. Parking bays may be designated with recharging facilities for use by electric powered vehicles, for which a payment may be levied.	Permitted for HGVs	Permitted for HGVs	Permitted for HGVs
Parking and provision at the levels laid down in Policy Annex B of DfT Circular 01/2008: - HGVs (3,500kg or above) (including self- propelled horse boxes) - Abnormal loads	Mandatory Mandatory	Mandatory Mandatory	Mandatory Mandatory
Free parking for up to two hours Subsequent payment for parking must be possible as an on-site cash transaction.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Provision of high security parking for which an additional charge can be levied after an initial two-hour period.	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted

Features and levels of provision	*Truck stops on Motorways*	*Truckstops signed from Motorways*	*Truckstops on All-Purpose Trunk Roads*
Free toilets and hand-washing facilities for all roadside facility users (at the levels laid down in DfT Circular 01/2008) with no obligation to make a purchase.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Shower and washing facilities for HGV drivers, including secure lockers in the shower/washing area. To be located near to HGV parking, at the levels laid down in DfT Circular 01/2008.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Maximum retail floor space (net internal area for both online and junction sites). Additional areas may be used for retail storage, but there shall be no public access and sales shall not be permitted from these areas. The allowance for retail space excludes restaurant facilities preparing food and drink for consumption on the premises.	Permitted maximum 500m²	Permitted maximum 500m²	Permitted maximum 500m²
Trading on bridges connecting two sites across motorway.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Traffic information points to help the public make informed travel decisions and plan their onward journeys.	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Games and/or exercise area floor space (games, gaming machines, or exercise machines) for use by lorry drivers only. Uses that specifically generate traffic will not be permitted.	Permitted maximum 100m²	Permitted maximum 100m²	Permitted maximum 100m²
Facilities for waste recycling in the amenity building and picnic areas.	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Access to a cash-operated telephone (card phones alone will not suffice).	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Advertisements situated within roadside facilities that are visible from the strategic road network (including advertisements mounted internally or externally on footbridges or connecting road bridges).	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Sale or consumption of alcohol on the premises.	Prohibited	Subject to licensing procedures	Subject to licensing procedures
Hot substantial food, snacks and hot drinks available between 05:00-10:00 and 17:00-22:00.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Access for up to two hours for those carrying out emergency repairs to broken-down vehicles.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Access for parties carrying out duties for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Site must also comply with all applicable equality legislation.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Bridge or underpass connecting facilities on opposite sides of a motorway.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Use as an "operating centre" for the purposes of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 or the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Subject to impact assessment
Hotels offering overnight accommodation for lorry drivers without generating additional new journeys, additional traffic or a net increase in vehicle mileage.	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
All other development.	Prohibited	Prohibited	Subject to impact assessment

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 23 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships (Creation of Opportunities)

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): One of the first announcements I made as Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning was that the Government would redeploy £150 million of Train to Gain funding to deliver an additional 50,000 adult apprenticeships. A commitment to apprenticeships which was reinforced by the Chancellor in the comprehensive spending review and the Budget.

Fulfilling our ambitions was bound to be challenging given the difficult economic circumstances.

As we publish the latest "Statistical First Release" today, I am, therefore, delighted to be able to confirm that we have greatly exceeded this ambition. Provisional data show that the Government have delivered 326,700 apprenticeship starts in the first nine months of the 2010-11 academic year—this is 114,000 more than the previous year and more than double our ambition. The growth has been across sectors, at all ages and all levels. There has also been an increase in participation levels for 16-18 and 19+ learners. Final data covering this period will be reported in the January "Release". The full report can be downloaded from the website at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current.

This is an historic achievement not just for Government but for employers, training providers and learners too. We have given colleges greater freedoms and flexibilities to meet the needs of businesses in their communities—consequently they have harnessed a very strong evidence base to persuade employers to invest in apprenticeships. Providers and employers have worked closely with the National Apprenticeships Service and Skills Funding Agency to deliver these impressive additional apprenticeship starts.

This growth proves that employers recognise apprenticeships to be a sound platform for long term economic prosperity. To build on this work we are now focusing on encouraging firms who have not taken on an apprentice before to do so and helping those who have to expand their programmes particularly at advanced and higher levels. I hope that this year's expansion is part of a step change in attitudes towards the recruitment of apprentices.

The significant progress on apprenticeships is part of our wider programme of reform of further education and skills. This will make a crucial contribution in securing sustainable economic growth.

I have placed a copy of the letter I sent to all hon. Members in the Libraries of both Houses.

EU Extraordinary Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Wilcox, has made the following statement:

I shall represent the UK at an EU Extraordinary Competitiveness Council that will take place in Luxembourg on 27 June 2011.

There will be legislative deliberation on two Council items. The first is a proposal for a Regulation of the Council and the European Parliament implementing enhanced co-operation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection. The second is a proposal for a Council Regulation implementing enhanced co-operation in the area of unitary patent protection with regard to the applicable translation arrangements.

The presidency's main aim is to obtain a general approach from member states on the two proposals.

There is also likely to be an information point relating to the adoption of a general approach on the decision on the Euratom framework programme for 2012-13.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Communication

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I am today announcing reforms to the organisation of Government Communication.

The changes, which will lead to the closure of the Central Office of Information, will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Government communications.

They follow the introduction of spending controls on advertising and marketing in June last year. This led to a 68% reduction in external spend through the COI from £532 million in 2009-10 to an estimated £168 million in 2010-11. In parallel, Government Departments have reduced their number of in-house communications staff by around a quarter, and their budgets by a half.

The reforms are designed to consolidate those reductions, while ensuring that the remaining spend on advertising and marketing is better co-ordinated and executed.

The changes will:

Strengthen central co-ordination, prioritisation and strategic planning of communications across Government;

Put in place a new governance structure to increase accountability and transparency and to drive collective responsibility. This will include the appointment of an executive director, and the establishment of a communications delivery board;

Create a specialist communications procurement unit under the leadership of the Government Procurement;

Enable Government to explore how they can best capitalise on the capability which exists in communications across Government, through a programme of reviews;

Explore the development of a shared communications delivery pool for certain specialist services; and for a small number of specialist marketing hubs.

These proposals will constitute the Government's response to the former permanent secretary for Government Communication's "Review of government direct communication and the role of COI".

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles): I have today laid before Parliament the "Government Response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Report: Abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies: a planning vacuum" (Cm 8103). Copies are available in the Vote Office.

I welcome the Committee's report and I have carefully considered its findings. The debate has helped to inform the amendments that we made to the Localism Bill at the Commons Report stage to strengthen the duty to co-operate and my Department will continue to take the findings into account as policy is developed.

The Government's top priority in reforming the planning system is to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs. We made clear in the growth review that our top priority in introducing the national planning policy framework will be to support long-term sustainable growth, through both development plans and decisions on planning applications.

We have made it plain that our decision to remove regional strategies was based on clear evidence that they did not work. We are determined to address this through our clear and comprehensive approach to reform: promoting economic growth and recovery through incentives such as the new homes bonus and a reformed community infrastructure levy; encouraging local authorities to work together effectively across their boundaries through a strengthened duty to co-operate; and driving house building by combining the incentives we are introducing with the removal of top-down targets.

Ordnance Survey (Performance Targets 2011-12)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Hanham, has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am today announcing that performance targets have been agreed for Ordnance Survey for the period 2011-12. The Ordnance Survey will report externally against these targets as is required of all Executives agencies in Government. The targets are:

To achieve an operating profit before exceptional items, interest and dividends of £25.3 million for the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

To achieve a free cash-flow before exceptional items of £24.2 million for the financial year 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

Some 99.6% of significant real-world features greater than six months-old are represented in the database.

To continue to reduce the underlying cost base of the business by on average 5% per annum measured against a baseline of 2008-09 costs.

To achieve a customer index score of at least 80%.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, to implementing the business strategy announced in April 2010, to maintaining and delivering intelligent geographic information to all users, and to offering improved value for money for all, as well as a commitment to Government policies.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (Targets 2011-12)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Baroness Hanham, has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am today announcing that key performance targets have been agreed for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

The agency's principal financial target for 2011-12 is to achieve a minimum dividend payment to the Department for Communities and Local Government equal to the total of 6% of average capital employed and a sum equal to the capital charge that applies to the building for the year concerned. Therefore, the agency's budget for 2011-12 includes a minimum dividend payment of £1,100,000. An additional dividend of £100,000 will be paid if the financial forecast for the year is achieved.

The agency also has the following targets to achieve:

A 54% occupancy of its rooms based on a theoretical full occupancy revenue of £9,680,970;

Overall score for value-for-money satisfaction of greater than 90%;

The number of complaints received to be less than two per 100 events; and

An average response time when answering complaints of less than four working days.

DEFENCE

Libya (Operation Ellamy)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): The current estimate of the net additional costs of military operations for six months in support of Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—is in the region of £120 million. This excludes costs associated with capital munitions expended.

Based upon current consumption rates we estimate the cost of replenishing munitions may be up to £140 million.

The Treasury has agreed to meet these costs from the reserve.

EDUCATION

Use of Force in Schools

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Mr Nick Gibb): The Secretary of State for Education has asked Charlie Taylor, the Government's expert adviser on behaviour and an experienced and successful head teacher with a track record in radically improving behaviour in troubled schools, to review the implications for schools of the requirement to record and report the use of force in schools, as set out in section 246 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. In particular, Charlie Taylor has been asked to make sure that the accompanying guidance provides the best possible advice to schools on establishing "light touch" systems while still providing protection for pupils and staff. It remains our intention to commence this requirement from 1 September 2011, subject to the outcome of Charlie Taylor's review.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy National Policy Statements

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): On 18 October 2010, I laid the revised draft "Energy National Policy Statements" before this House. At the same time, I undertook to present the finalised statements to Parliament for approval.

Having considered the responses to consultation and parliamentary scrutiny on the revised draft Energy National Policy Statement, and the outputs of the interim report of the chief nuclear inspector, Dr Mike Weightman, on lessons to be learned from events at Fukushima, I am pleased today to be able to present the six energy NPSs for parliamentary approval. This represents a further important milestone in the coalition Government's determination to make the UK a truly attractive market for investors, to give us secure, affordable, low-carbon energy. NPSs are critical to the new planning system, which will help developers bring forward energy projects without facing unnecessary hold-ups, while making sure local people get a chance to have their say about how their communities develop, and decisions are made in an accountable way by elected Ministers.

The Energy National Policy Statements therefore form a key part of our plans to move to a low-carbon future while protecting the security of the UK's energy supplies. Business and industry frequently tell us that investment in infrastructure is key to enabling them create the growth and jobs the UK needs. NPSs will provide market certainty by giving developers confidence to bring forward applications to build the infrastructure we need. This will ensure the UK has diverse sources of generation and remains at the forefront of low-carbon technological development, and in turn will enable us to generate jobs and growth in this rapidly expanding sector.

NPSs do this by setting out the need for new energy infrastructure, including electricity from a mixed portfolio of all types of generation. They provide a clear framework for decision-making on planning applications for major energy infrastructure, protecting local communities from unacceptable impacts while ensuring that "nimbyism" does not get in the way of meeting the national need for energy.

Together, the NPSs set out national policy on a number of key energy policy areas. Five of these cover specific technologies: fossil fuels; renewables; gas supply and gas and oil pipelines; electricity networks; and nuclear. These five sit below an overarching energy NPS, and together they play an important role in the new planning system for major infrastructure. This new system, as proposed by the Localism Bill, retains the consultative approach (both on the NPSs and the consultation of local people in individual applications) and the transparency of the IPC system while increasing democratic accountability through returning the final decision to Ministers.

Parliament has already played a valuable role in scrutinising the revised draft energy NPSs both here and in another place. I would like to thank the Energy and Climate Change Committee for its report, all those who contributed to the debate in this House, and those in another place who also undertook important scrutiny work on the earlier drafts. I am today taking the opportunity to lay before you the Government's response to Parliament alongside the revised NPSs.

I am today also publishing a Government response to the latest consultation, to which there were over 2,500 responses; a draft of the post-adoption statement on the Appraisals of Sustainability which informed the drafting of the NPSs; and the monitoring strategy which sets out how we will monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the NPSs.

Copies of all these documents have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available at: http://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk

The House has provisionally set aside time for a debate on these documents before the House of Commons votes on them.

Oil Stock Release

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Chris Huhne): The UK today joined its partners in the International Energy Agency (IEA) in releasing oil stocks to the market. A total of 60 million barrels of oil will be made available to the market over the next 30 days, with the UK contributing some 3 million barrels.

Violence in Libya and Yemen has disrupted the global supply of oil, and we expect the loss of Libyan light sweet crude production to continue for some time. Low seasonal demand has enabled markets to cope so far with the loss of production. However, we expect the market to come under increased pressure in the coming months due to the normal seasonal upturn in demand. The action taken today will help ensure that the market does not tighten further. The global economy is still emerging from recession, and it is essential that this recovery is not endangered by oil supply disruptions or shortages. Volatile oil prices damage the economy of every country. The impact is disproportionately high on the poorest countries in the world, who are most vulnerable to rises in energy prices and the knock-on impact on food prices. Adequate volumes of oil must be made available at a price acceptable to both producers and consumers.

Earlier this month Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states committed to increase oil production to supply whatever the market needs: this is a helpful action by responsible producer nations, and we believe it will ensure the oil market is adequately supplied in the coming months and beyond. The stock release is designed to complement the action by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states by making available light crudes and refined products. The stock release will help prevent short term supply disruption driving a more volatile oil price, that could damage the UK economy and threaten the global economic recovery.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (Annual Report and Accounts)

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The 2010-11 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate was laid before Parliament today.

JUSTICE

Youth Justice Board (Abolition)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am today announcing further detail on the Government's plans for the future national governance of youth justice. It is my intention to abolish the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and to bring its key functions into the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the Minister responsible for civil society, the Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd), will be bringing forward a Government amendment to reintroduce the YJB to schedule 1 (the list of bodies to be abolished) of the Public Bodies Bill currently before this House.

The Youth Justice Board was set up in 1998 to oversee what was then a fractured and immature system. In the past 12 years the system has changed considerably. In response to a lack of cohesion and collaborative working, the YJB has overseen the national roll-out of youth offending teams and the establishment of a distinct secure estate for young people. These core elements of the youth justice system are now fully operational in the local delivery of youth justice. Given these significant improvements, I believe that we no longer require a separate body to provide oversight of the youth justice system.

Effective oversight can be better achieved by bringing this function closer to Ministers; and it is right that Ministers themselves—not unelected officials in arm's length bodies (ALBs)—should be responsible for youth justice, which is a critical area of Government policy. It is Ministers who should lead and drive forward the work that will result in further reductions in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system, the numbers of young people reoffending and the numbers of young people in custody. By bringing youth justice closer to Ministers, the new Youth Justice Division I am establishing will be a powerful impetus behind future improvement, will be able to influence policy across Government and will ensure that other Departments play their part in stopping young people from becoming involved in crime and reoffending. An ALB does not have the appropriate policy leverage within Government to effect such change.

The abolition of the YJB will not have an adverse impact on the delivery of youth justice on the ground. The Government intend to retain youth offending teams, which are well embedded in local structures. My Department will also continue to place young people separately to adult offenders in a dedicated secure estate that is driven by the needs of young people. There will be clear ministerial oversight of this.

It is my intention to carry out the main functions of the YJB within a newly created youth justice division in the MoJ. The Youth Justice Division will continue this Government's focus on meeting the needs of children and young people in the youth justice system and will deliver the main functions of the YJB—overseeing the delivery of youth justice services, identifying and disseminating effective practice, commissioning a distinct secure estate and placing young people in custody.

The Youth Justice Division will be a dedicated part of the MoJ and will sit outside of the National Offender Management Service. It will ensure that the commissioning of the youth justice secure estate and the placement of young people in custody will continue to be driven by people who have a dedicated focus on the needs of young people. The structure will also ensure that youth justice work in the community—primarily conducted by youth offending teams—remains closely linked to work with young offenders in custody. This is at the heart of our ambitions for a "rehabilitation revolution".

I can confirm that John Drew, the current chief executive of the YJB, has agreed to lead the transition of the YJB into the new Youth Justice Division structure and to continue to lead it beyond that. I am confident that he will ensure there is continuity between the YJB and the new Youth Justice Division. He will also help to ensure that the new organisation is embedded in the MoJ while retaining the experience and expertise of YJB staff.

My Department will also strengthen its focus on youth justice by establishing an advisory board of stakeholders and experts to advise on youth justice issues and to provide expert challenge and scrutiny. In addition, Dame Sue Street, a non-executive director of the MoJ who brings experience and knowledge of youth justice, will be taking an active interest in youth justice within MoJ, and will have a direct route into the Department through the permanent secretary and Secretary of State.

In making this decision I have taken into account the concerns expressed by some interested parties and noble Lords about the abolition of the YJB and our plans for the future governance of youth justice. My Department will consult on the YJB's inclusion in the Bill over the summer, and I will pay close attention to the responses. My reform proposals are also subject to the progress of the Bill through Parliament, and the abolition of the YJB will require me to lay an order, subject to affirmative resolution process. This proposal has therefore already been widely discussed with stakeholders and will continue to be subject to consultation and to full and appropriate parliamentary scrutiny.

TRANSPORT

Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) (Consultation)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I am pleased to announce that a consultation on reforming the air travel organisers' licensing (ATOL) scheme is being published today.

Since its inception some 40 years ago, the ATOL scheme has successfully protected many millions of consumers on flight-inclusive package holidays against the insolvency of their travel company. However, the travel trade and holiday market has seen significant change and diversification in recent years. There are now many holidays available which look like packages but do not fall under the legal definition and so are not protected under the ATOL scheme.

There is a strong case for reforming the scheme to better reflect today's holiday market so that consumers can be clear when their holiday is protected, allowing them to understand and use their legal rights. In addition, the scheme has operated with a deficit for some years and is supported by taxpayers through a Government

guarantee. The reforms should put the ATOL scheme on the path to financial self-sustainability, with a view to ending the need for taxpayer support.

The consultation document sets out the details of the "in principle" decisions I announced on 3 February, *Official Report*, columns 56-57WS. These were:

> Extending the ATOL scheme to flight-plus holidays comprising a flight and other component bought within two successive days;
>
> That everyone booking a ATOL protected package holiday or flight-plus will get a recognisable "ATOL certificate" confirming their rights under the scheme for refunds and repatriation should their travel company fail;
>
> Helping ensure that "agent for the consumer" businesses arranging holidays are fully aware of their legal responsibilities to consumers.

It contains the draft secondary legislation needed to implement the first two measures.

This is an important first step towards reforming the ATOL scheme. These reforms will address a major area of uncertainty for consumers when buying holidays from tour operators and travel agents. The additional ATOL protection contributions at £2.50 per booking should help the scheme become financially self-sustaining within three years.

Importantly, the reforms pave the way for further potential change to the ATOL scheme in the medium to longer-term. Once the scheme's deficit has been paid off and the guarantee withdrawn, there is an opportunity to consider how funding repatriations and refunds might best be arranged in today's market. The consultation seeks initial views on this, to inform more detailed work to be undertaken by the Civil Aviation Authority later in the year and into 2012.

The consultation also asks stakeholders about bringing holiday sales by airlines and those arranged on an "agent for the consumer" basis into the scheme. These would require new primary legislation. The Bill to reform airport economic regulation could provide a vehicle to make the necessary changes if the Government decide to go ahead with these further reforms. Decisions on reforms needing new primary legislation are planned for the autumn and may also need to take account of work under way by the European Commission on the future of the package travel directive.

The consultation closes on 15 September 2011. My aim is to announce decisions in the autumn on the way forward on the reforms dependent on new secondary legislation. Subject to consultation responses, the intention is for the reforms to come into effect on 1 January 2012, so consumers have the benefit of the additional protection from their summer 2012 holidays.

Copies of the consultation document are available from the Department's website, www.dft.gov.uk.

EU Transport Council

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I attended the second Transport Council of the Hungarian presidency in Luxembourg on 16 June.

The Council reached a general approach on a directive which recasts the 2001 first rail package. The 2001 legislation set the initial framework for a single European rail market, setting out principles for charging and access to the network. The present draft directive modifies the three 2001 directives. The presidency tabled a compromise text which was slightly amended at the Council. The presidency then concluded that there was a qualified majority for a general approach. The text of the general approach is acceptable to the UK.

The Council also reached a general approach on the draft regulation amending Regulation 1406/2002, which established the European Maritime Safety Agency. This amending regulation modifies and extends the tasks of the agency to bring them in line with recent international and EU developments in the maritime safety field. I set out the UK's opposition to any staff or administrative cost increases for the agency, and was able to accept revised wording on agency resources, which addressed our concerns.

The Council debated the European Commission's recent White Paper, "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area—Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system", which was issued in March. The Council debate centred on a number of questions put by the presidency.

The White Paper aims to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of the sector while moving towards a fully integrated transport network. In doing so, the Commission aims to cut carbon emissions from transport by 60% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). Member states broadly agreed that the transport sector has to make an adequate contribution to the achievement of the medium and long-term climate change targets. I explained that, while supporting the broad thrust of the 10 goals in the White Paper, the UK has some concerns on the detail.

We are not in favour of having targets for their own sake, and do not think that it is practical or desirable to have a multiplicity of goals and targets. Furthermore, we do not support sector specific targets, which would constrain our progress on carbon reduction within the economy as a whole. Wherever targets are set, we believe that they must be realistic and supported by robust evidence and cost impact analysis. I also joined others in proposing that we work internationally to negotiate similar commitments with all of the global partners, in the framework of international organisations.

I stressed that the EU should focus on actions that need to be undertaken at EU level, and where there was no such case, it should be left to member states and local authorities to act. I also welcomed, with support from some other Ministers, the Commission's commitment to undertake thorough impact assessments for any actions. I urged the Commission to consider the importance of reducing the overall burden of regulation, to help our businesses and the budgetary constraints that we all face, as it takes forward the White Paper proposals.

Council conclusions were adopted on EU inland waterway transport, inviting the Commission to launch a project to continue support for an existing inland waterway programme, which is designed to encourage modal shift of freight from road to inland waterways, and to bring forward proposals for a follow-on programme. The conclusions are acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted a decision on the signing and conclusion of an agreement with the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail on the EU accession to the convention concerning International

Carriage by Rail (COTIF) of 9 May 1980, as amended by the Vilnius protocol of 3 June 1999. The decision is acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted two decisions in the area of aviation external relations, both of which were acceptable to the UK.

The first decision authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Moldova on a comprehensive air transport agreement.

The second was a decision on the signature of an air transport agreement between the EU and Brazil. Ministers pre-signed the agreement in the margins of the Council.

Among AOB items, the Commission reported on air cargo security work which has been carried out in pursuit of the action plan endorsed by Ministers at the December 2010 JHA and Transport Councils. They were disappointed that a proposal to strengthen EU inbound air cargo security had been narrowly defeated in the June Regulatory Committee, and called on Ministers from member states which voted against or abstained to rethink their position, I joined Germany in expressing strong support for the Commission, and called for work to continue on the proposal.

Also under AOB, the Commission reported on work to deal with the impact of volcanic ash on the EU aviation sector and on recent developments in implementing the Single European Sky. On volcanic ash, I underlined the importance of developing the existing methodology and modelling, and increasing pressure on equipment manufacturers for engine tolerance levels.

In the margins of the Council, I met Ministers from France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands to discuss the work on volcanic ash. In a separate discussion, I exchanged views on better regulation with the Netherlands Minister.

The UK abstained on one item on the A point list, namely the adoption of a Council decision on the conclusion of a memorandum of co-operation between the EU and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). This reflects our general need to be vigilant regarding the balance between member states' and EU competence in UN bodies and other international organisations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council: 17 June 2011

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 17 June 2011 in Luxembourg. I represented the United Kingdom.

In the first discussion on country specific recommendations (CSRs), the Commission recalled that its annual growth survey had shown that recovery was under way, but it was uneven and could be reversed. Without fundamental reforms, any progress remained on shaky ground. The CSRs were an integral part of the Europe 2020 strategy and gave an in-depth analysis of the reforms needed in each member state. They were a tool for improving economic reform without infringing on member state sovereignty. For the UK, I highlighted the difficulties linked to the time frame and process and stressed that this should be improved in future years. I also put down a parliamentary scrutiny reserve. The presidency noted that a general approach could be adopted, and recalled reserves from some member states.

The second discussion focused on demographic change and effective family policies. A number of member states intervened, stressing the importance of providing support for parents in the workplace to ensure they could reconcile work and family life, for example through flexible working opportunities, prevention of gender stereotyping, and proper enforcement of equal treatment legislation. The Commission also thought that this should be a priority issue.

There were three progress reports. On the pregnant workers directive, the Commission acknowledged it would be difficult for member states to accept the European Parliament amendments and proposed going forward on the basis of a "passerelle" clause. There was very little support for this and I along with some other member states warned against progressing towards a common position. On the co-ordination of social security systems, I tabled a minute statement together with 12 other member states, on the relationship between the social security co-ordination regulation and the free movement directive. This stressed the importance of achieving a clear and coherent understanding of the relationship between the two at the European level, and suggested that amendments to the current legislative framework could be needed to achieve this. On the equal treatment directive, the presidency reported progress on its examination of the proposal based on a questionnaire focusing on national legislation.

Three sets of Council conclusions were adopted. These were on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives, reconciling work and family life in the context of demographic change, and tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being.

Under any other business, the Hungarian presidency reported on conferences they have hosted and provided information on social and employment related aspects of the legal migration directives. The Commission reported on the United Nations convention on the rights of people with disabilities and also presented a new proposal amending the existing electromagnetic fields directive. The Cypriot delegation provided information on the forum on the future of democracy. The French delegation introduced their G20 priorities for social and employment. The incoming Polish presidency presented their presidency priorities.

Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Today we are publishing the Government's response to the call for evidence on how the new locally based service to replace assistance currently given through community care grants and some crisis loans should be delivered.

We received responses from an array of organisations, many providing thoughtful and constructive contributions that will support the development of the new local services.

This initial body of evidence is an important building block in the reform process and will help to direct our thinking during the next stages of the planning process.

The Government response captures the key issues and themes that have emerged and sets out our response. It also includes new information about the current scheme that has not previously been published that will help local authorities in developing their plans, including for the first time local authority level social fund data.

This is an important change in the way that welfare services are framed and delivered. It goes to the heart of localism and the big society agenda. It empowers local communities to develop and deliver local services tailored to meet the needs of their most vulnerable members and challenges local service providers to design innovative and creative schemes.

The successful delivery of new services will be through strong partnerships between central and local government, community groups, charities and individuals.

The publication of this report is a key development in this process.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 27 June 2011

TREASURY

ECOFIN 20 June 2011

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 20 June 2011. The following items were discussed:

Legislative proposals on economic governance

The Council updated its general approach, with a view to concluding negotiations with the European Parliament in advance of the European Council on 23-24 June. The UK is content with the updated text: on the issue of economic dialogue involving the European Parliament, I ensured explicit text that member state attendance at public debates and hearings would be voluntary. In addition, the UK's partial opt-out from the fiscal frameworks directive remains protected.

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank (EIB) against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the EU

The Council endorsed the outcome of the trialogue discussions (Council, European Parliament and Commission) on the EIB's external lending mandate. This political agreement will, with the EP, be formally adopted later in the year. During the Council discussion, I emphasised the importance of Iceland repaying the money it owes to British and Dutch taxpayers. The following Council statement was then agreed to accompany the mandate:

"The Council takes note of the issuance of the reasoned opinion of the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) which states that Iceland has failed to comply with obligations resulting from the Deposit Guarantee Directive and the EEA Agreement. The Council underlines the importance of this reasoned opinion and encourages Iceland to take all steps necessary to swiftly fulfil all its EEA obligations".

Regulation on over-the-counter derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (EMIR)

Finance Ministers held a policy debate, which focused on two issues:

The authorisation and supervision of central counterparties, in particular the role played by the European Securities and Markets Authority;

The scope of the regulation, That is, whether it should apply to all types of derivatives.

I emphasised that further work would be needed to achieve a regulation consistent with G20 commitments, single market principles and the agreement on the establishment of the European supervisory authorities last year. The Hungarian presidency will pass on a progress report to the Polish presidency, who will aim to agree a general approach following further work by the Council.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing technical requirements for credit transfers and direct debits in euros

The Council briefly discussed the draft regulation. Some member states raised concerns, and the Commission agreed to work on a transitional process in order to address these. The Polish presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament shortly. The UK supports the proposed regulation, which will facilitate the creation of a single market for electronic payments in euros.

European Semester

The Council approved the macro-economic component of the European semester country-specific recommendations. The Government expressed concerns about a lack of time for parliamentary scrutiny and abstained from the vote accordingly. The recommendations will be endorsed by the European Council on 24 June as Council recommendations, and formally adopted by the ECOFIN Council on 12 July,

European Banking Authority stress testing

Over dinner, Finance Ministers discussed backstop support schemes in the banking sector, with a view to the publication in early July of the results of the 2011 stress tests. The Government support the implementation of coherent and transparent measures to address any vulnerabilities in the EU's banking system,

European Stability Mechanism (ESM)

In an inter-governmental meeting preceding ECOFIN, Finance Ministers discussed the draft treaty establishing the ESM which will be presented to the European Council for endorsement. In particular, it was agreed that the ESM would not assert preferred creditor status in the case of countries currently in receipt of assistance, should those member states access ESM funding post-2013. I also secured the removal of any language with respect to collective action clauses that might impact on the ability of euro area member states to issue debt under English law.

The Government's opposition to the use of the European financial stabilisation mechanism for any second package of financial assistance for Greece has been made clear.

EDUCATION

Initial Teacher Training

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): I am launching today a discussion about my strategy for initial teacher training. This document, "Training our next generation of outstanding teachers", sets out my proposals for initial teacher training, providing detail of how we intend to meet the commitments made in the White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching". The document is for discussion with training providers, teachers, trainees, head teachers, pupils, parents and the general public, before I announce final policy later in the year, ready for changes to begin to take effect from 2012-13 teacher training courses.

If we want every child to have the chance to take their full and equal share in citizenship and shape their own destiny, then we need to give them the best possible start in life, and this means the best possible education. This

begins before school, and high-quality early years learning provides the foundation for everything that follows. I want to be sure that the teachers who build on this foundation are giving the children of this country an education that ranks with the best in the world.

We have some excellent teachers in this country, but many who could make a huge difference in the lives of children choose other professions. Our teachers are trained in some of the best institutions in the world, but the schools which employ these teachers do not get enough of a say in how they are trained, and training does not focus sharply on the techniques teachers most need, such as behaviour management and the effective teaching of reading. We value our teachers highly, but the current system of funding does not incentivise the best. The system needs to change.

The strategy sets out proposals to build on the strengths of the existing system, as well as addressing some important weaknesses. The proposals cover:

Giving schools, as prospective employers, a stronger influence over the recruitment and selection of trainees and the content of their training;

Permitting and encouraging schools, often working as groups of chains, to lead their own high-quality initial teacher training in partnership with a university;

Offering high-quality graduates and science and maths specialists significantly better financial incentives to train as teachers;

Offering financial incentives to all trainees with at least a 2.2 so that teacher training continues to be attractive, and offering incentives of up to £20,000 for the best trainees in priority subjects. From September 2012 the maximum charges for mainstream university-based ITT courses will be £6,000, or £9,000 where the university has agreement from the Office for Fair Access;

Continuing to subject ITT provision to quality controls that focus on the quality of placements and selection;

Requiring all trainees to have high standards of mathematics and English and excellent subject knowledge demonstrated through achieving a second class degree or above to qualify for any financial incentives.

Copies of the discussion document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council, 20-21 June 2011

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council were held on 20-21 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

The FAC was chaired by Baroness Ashton. A provisional report of the meeting, and all conclusions adopted, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/122937.pdf.

Sudan

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) which:

Expressed support for the African Union's efforts to facilitate a cessation of hostilities in Southern Kordofan.

Called on all parties to stop hostilities.

Denounced the 19 June attack against the UN mission.

Agreed to follow a comprehensive EU approach to Sudan.

The Foreign Secretary underlined the need to support the efforts of the Mbeki panel and continued political dialogue with Khartoum, which should include messages on debt relief. He also emphasised the need for a continuing UN presence after 9 July, to ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian access.

European Neighbourhood Policy

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) which endorsed the review of the European neighbourhood policy (ENP), setting out an ambitious new approach to the EU's neighbourhood. This review is in line with the Government's goal of an enhanced EU offer to its neighbours, particularly those emerging from the Arab spring, holding out the prospect of profound economic integration for those who engage in meaningful democratic reforms.

Western Balkans

Ministers discussed Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo.

On Albania, Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) deploring the deterioration of the political situation and increase in tensions following disputed municipal election results. They also urged the Albanian authorities to strengthen its reform efforts particularly in relation to the Copenhagen criteria and the 12 priorities identified in the European Commission's 9 November 2010 opinion on Albania's application for membership.

The Foreign Secretary and other Ministers welcomed the appointment of Peter Sorensen as the new head of delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Foreign Secretary said that Kosovo needed to be given tangible reassurance of its EU future. Ministers also noted Serbia's EU ambitions.

Immediately following the FAC, I attended the western Balkans forum with other EU Foreign and Europe Ministers and Foreign Ministers from across the western Balkans. The meeting was chaired by Baroness Ashton, the Commissioner for Enlargement (Fule) and the Hungarian Foreign Minister (Martonyi). Many speakers emphasised the continuing importance of regional co-operation in the context of EU enlargement. I made clear that we did not want to see a pause on enlargement after Croatia's accession. The positive prospect of conditions-based enlargement was a driving force behind economic and political reform and as such demanded clear and collective commitment to the process.

Belarus

Ministers adopted conclusions (see link) and agreed further restrictive measures on Belarus. The conclusions set out the EU's concerns about the deterioration of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Belarus. On restrictive measures, the Foreign Secretary spoke in favour of including three companies closely linked to the Belarusian leadership. These were agreed.

Syria

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) which condemned violence, reiterated the call for reform, and laid the ground for further work on sanctions.

On the same day as the FAC, the Foreign Secretary made a statement on Syria:

"President Assad's speech today was disappointing and unconvincing. If President Assad is to restore any credibility the Syrian people need to see concrete action, not vague promises. We have been clear that rapid and real implementation of substantial reforms, addressing the legitimate demands of peaceful Syrian protesters, is what is urgently needed. There must also be an immediate end to violence by Syrian security forces, the release of all political prisoners, an end to the torture and abuse of those who remain in detention and access given to international humanitarian agencies."

Libya

Conclusions were agreed (see link) setting out the EU's approach to a ceasefire and a political solution based on Gaddafi's departure. The conclusions also referred to sanctions measures, such as the listing of Gaddafi-controlled ports in Libya.

Yemen

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) which called for all to respect the current ceasefire and reiterated the need for a solution based on the Gulf Co-operation Council's initiative.

Middle East Peace Process

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the current situation in the peace process, including: the role of the Quartet; the handling of a possible unilateral declaration of Palestinian independence in September; and options for encouraging the two sides to restart negotiations.

General Affairs Council (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the Hungarian EU presidency (Foreign Minister Martonyi). A draft record of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/122949.pdf.

June European Council

Ministers examined the draft conclusions for the European Council of 23-24 June. The discussion covered the main agenda items: economic policy (progress on the euro-plus pact and on the EU's response to the sovereign debt crisis); migration (review of progress in implementing asylum and migration polices); Croatia (review of progress on accession negotiations); and events in the southern neighbourhood.

I emphasised the need for positive language on economic growth, and for the right approach on deregulation for small and medium-sized enterprises. I also sought references on trade, particularly in relation to the Doha round.

On the European neighbourhood policy, I pushed for a clear Council position welcoming the review to be reflected in the Council conclusions.

European Semester

The presidency set out recommendations on national reform programmes submitted by member states under the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth. The Council agreed to forward texts to the European Council. I abstained from voting on the grounds that there had not been sufficient time to complete UK parliamentary scrutiny. I asked that more time be given for the scrutiny processes in future.

18 Month Presidency Programme

Poland, Denmark and Cyprus presented the 18-month programme of the EU presidencies. The programme was endorsed.

I will deposit copies of this note in the Libraries of both Houses, and I will continue to update Parliament on Foreign and General Affairs Councils as and when future meetings are held.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Prescribed Diseases

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): My noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State, responsible for welfare reform, Lord Freud of Eastry, has made the following statement.

The Social Security (Industrial Injuries) (Prescribed Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2011 have today been laid before Parliament. The regulations implement, from 18 July 2011, the recommendations set out in the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council's reports:

"Bronchiolitis Obliterans and Food Flavouring Agents", Cm 7439, published in July 2008; and

"Chromium and sino-nasal cancer", Cm 7740, published in December 2009.

The recommendations made in the report(s) were to add the following two diseases to the schedule of diseases prescribed under the industrial injuries disablement benefit scheme:

Bronchiolitis obliterans, and

Chromium and sino-nasal cancer.

These regulations implement those recommendations.

This means that people suffering from bronchiolitis obliterans can claim industrial injuries disablement benefit if their work involved the production of diacetyl, or the manufacture of food flavourings containing diacetyl, or the manufacture of food flavoured by diacetyl.

Those suffering from chromium and sino-nasal cancer can claim industrial injuries disablement benefit if they had worked in hexavelent chrome plating or the manufacture of inorganic chromates.

Occupational and Workplace Personal Pension Schemes

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to be able to publish today the Government's initial response to the call for evidence on regulatory differences between occupational and workplace personal pension schemes.

Automatic enrolment into workplace pensions will change the pensions landscape dramatically. It is therefore essential that the regulatory landscape to deliver these changes remains appropriate.

The call for evidence provoked varied and wide-ranging responses and has helped to identify areas of attention to ensure the success of the workplace pension reforms. The most contentious issue is short-service refund rules and I remain convinced that these rules pose a risk to our goals of increasing pension savings. Responses to the call for evidence show, however, that there are no easy answers and that removing these rules will result in more small, stranded pension pots. So we believe that a decision on short-service refunds must take account of a solution for small pots across the whole pensions industry.

This solution will go to the heart of what the pensions landscape should look like after 2012 and we need to fully understand the potential impact of this on individuals,

schemes and employers. We will therefore undertake further analysis which builds on the call for evidence, in order to publish a more detailed follow-up paper in the autumn. This paper will outline how we intend to change short-service refunds, together with potential ways to manage the burden of small pension pots after automatic enrolment.

I would emphasise that short-service refunds are unlikely to continue in their current form. As this area remains under review, I would encourage employers not to choose a new pension scheme on the assumption that the default refund of employer contributions will be available after automatic enrolment.

I would like to thank all those groups who have been engaged on this issue and responded to our call for evidence.

The Government response will be placed in the Library and will be made available later today on the Department's website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 28 June 2011

TREASURY

Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A new Double Taxation Agreement with the People's Republic of China was signed on 27 June 2011. The text of the agreement has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Publication of Tax Policy Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and HM Treasury will today publish the following consultation document:

VAT cost-sharing—A consultation on workable options for implementing a VAT relief for services shared between bodies with VAT exempt or non-business activities such as universities and charities.

The Government will on 29 June publish the following consultation document:

Gifts of works of art—A consultation on proposals to encourage donations of pre-eminent objects and works of art to the nation in return for a tax reduction.

HMRC and HM Treasury will on 30 June publish the following consultation documents:

Controlled foreign companies (CFCs) reform—A consultation on detailed proposals for new CFC rules to be introduced in 2012.

High-risk areas of the tax code: relief for income tax losses—A consultation on proposals for improving legislative defences against tax avoidance.

High-risk areas of the tax code: unauthorised unit trusts—A consultation on proposals for improving legislative defences against tax avoidance.

Updates to dates for some consultations planned for June and July have been made to the tax consultation tracker.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (28 June)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) who is responsible for the natural environment and fisheries will be representing the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 28 June.

There is one fisheries and one agriculture item on the agenda. Discussions will take place on the following:

Communication from the Commission concerning a consultation on fishing opportunities—The annual report setting out the scientific background and principles that the Commission will use to formulate their annual proposals for fishing opportunities to be agreed later in the year.

Follow-up to the Extraordinary Council on 7 June 2011 on the E. coli outbreak—Information from the Commission on proposals it has put in place to provide aid to affected growers.

There are currently five items under any other business

Unrestricted fishing of mackerel by Iceland and Faroe Islands—A request from the Irish delegation for EU action to bring Iceland and Faroe Islands back inside the multilateral management of the fishery.

Conference on the future of the common fisheries policy—A report from the Dutch delegation on the recent high-level conference held in Noordwijk, Netherlands.

European funding for the fisheries sector post-2013—Joint declaration by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania, on the budget and objectives of the successor to the European fisheries fund.

Future of the food aid for deprived persons scheme—A request from the Hungarian and Italian delegations for the Commission to present proposals to amend the current deprived persons programme.

NGO conference on trade, development and sustainability in the European animal sector—A report from the presidency on the conference of officials and NGOs that took place in the ministerial meeting at the informal Agriculture Council in Debrecen (26-28 May 2011).

Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The House will be aware that on 22 and 23 June, France as presidency of the G20, convened the first ever meeting at G20 level of Agriculture Ministers, to consider an action plan on food price volatility and agriculture.

The action plan which we agreed recognises that market fundamentals—supply and demand—are the key causes of price volatility in wheat, corn, maize and soya and that both increasing production sustainably and reducing shocks to supply such as those caused when policymakers respond to poor quality information are the means to ensure a healthier relationship of supply to rising demand.

We emphasised the need to trade openly and remove distorting measures, and that export bans in particular should not impede calls for humanitarian aid.

We are taking steps to improve market information and transparency, by establishing an agricultural market information system (AMIS) in order to encourage major players on the agri-food markets to share data, to enhance existing information systems, to promote greater

shared understanding of food price developments, and further policy dialogue and co-operation. G20 countries committed to disclose reliable, quality, accurate and timely data for this initiative.

We also agreed to establish a senior officials' group to act as a "Rapid Response Forum", to share views and plans for immediate actions in order to prevent or mitigate world food price crises. Taken together with the improvement in market information which we anticipate that AMIS will bring, this improved co-ordination should reduce the extent to which G20 members are themselves the source of avoidable supply shocks in future, as happens for example when panic buying takes place or export restrictions are imposed.

G20 Ministers committed themselves to implementing a broad scope of actions to boost agricultural growth, including a strengthening of agricultural research and innovation. In particular, we launched an international research initiative for wheat improvement to co-ordinate our efforts on this major crop for food security.

We recognised the need for further analysis of the relationships between biofuels production and food availability and price volatility, as well as potential policy responses.

Finally, we welcomed and endorsed the importance of the work of the G20's development working group—on risk management and the potential use of pre-deployed emergency food stocks—and that of G20 Finance Ministers on financial regulation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Western European Union (Closure)

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): On 30 March 2010 the UK announced its intention to withdraw from the Western European Union (WEU). A 12-month notice period followed our and the other nine WEU member states' denunciation of the modified Brussels treaty and the WEU will be formally closed on 30 June 2011.

The WEU has played a valuable role in discussion on European security. It embedded the principle of mutual defence in post-war Europe, promoted consultation and co-operation on defence and security matters in Western Europe and has conducted operations in a number of vital theatres. But the WEU's mutual defence role became largely symbolic as soon as NATO was established; its operational role has long since been succeeded by the EU through the common security and defence policy; and we could no longer justify the cost of over €2 million a year to UK taxpayers.

The European Security and Defence Assembly within the WEU will also close. It has provided an important forum for parliamentarians to meet and debate European defence issues with their peers. The Government recognise the value of such debate and in order to see that continue we have been working with the relevant parliamentary committees to facilitate the establishment of a new forum for parliamentarians from across Europe to meet and debate common foreign and security policy issues. Quite rightly this is a matter for national Parliaments, but the Government will continue to provide support where required to help ensure suitable inter-parliamentary debating arrangements are in place.

After the closure of the WEU, outstanding tasks will be overseen by a board of the EU Satellite Centre composed of representatives of the 10 former WEU member states. This is the most cost-effective way of managing the WEU's legacy tasks. These tasks include our continuing obligations to former WEU staff and making arrangements for the final liquidation of the WEU assets. This will include the sale of the WEU building in Paris, which is jointly owned by the 10 WEU member states.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone): On 5 April 2011 the Government brought into force the public sector Equality Duty, contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, for public authorities in Great Britain.

The Equality Duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. It supports good decision-making by ensuring that public authorities understand how different people will be affected by their activities, so that services are appropriate and accessible to all, and meet different people's needs.

To assist public authorities in the better performance of the Equality Duty, the Government have today laid before Parliament for approval the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011. These regulations will promote the better performance of the Equality Duty by requiring those public authorities to publish:

equality objectives, at least every four years;

information to demonstrate their compliance with the Equality Duty, at least annually.

The latter will need to include, in particular, information relating to their employees (for authorities with 150 or more staff) and others affected by their policies and practices, such as service users.

The publication of this information will ensure that public authorities are transparent about their performance on equality. This transparency will drive the better performance of the Equality Duty without burdening public authorities with unnecessary bureaucratic processes, or the production of superfluous documents. Public authorities will have flexibility in deciding what information to publish, and will be held to account by the people they serve.

With the exception of schools, public authorities will be required to publish relevant information demonstrating their compliance by 31 January 2012, and their first equality objectives by 6 April 2012. Schools will be required to publish both their information and their equality objectives by 6 April 2012.

The Government will work closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure that clear non-statutory guidance is available to public authorities to help them to comply with these regulations.

The Government are committed to reviewing the working of these regulations in two years' time, to check they are delivering the transparency and accountability that we are seeking, and driving the better performance of the Equality Duty.

JUSTICE

Court of Protection (Authorised Court Officers)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): The Government have today published a consultation paper on proposals that some straightforward applications to the Court of Protection should be delegated to authorised court officers.

At present, all applications to the court have to be decided by a judge, even when the issue involved is straightforward and non-contentious—such as an undisputed application to become a property and affairs deputy. Judges will continue to take all decisions which relate to health and welfare issues, but some types of application for property and affairs deputyships (which form a large proportion of the court's work) could be dealt with by authorised court officers. This would free up judicial time to focus on the more difficult and sensitive issues the court has to deal with, and reduce the time it takes to deal with routine matters, thereby improving the service to users.

The consultation runs until 20 September 2011. Copies have been placed in the House Libraries, and the paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/decisions-court-protection.htm.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 29 June 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Council for Science and Technology

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): The Prime Minister has appointed 11 new members to the CST. This process was made in accordance with the rules of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The CST is the UK Government's top-level advisory body on science and technology policy issues. It reports directly to the Prime Minister. CST's remit is to advise the Prime Minister on strategic science and technology policy issues that cut across the responsibilities of individual Government Departments.

The newly appointed members are:

Professor Keith Burnett FRS—Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University;

Professor Steven Cowley —CEO of the UKAEA;

Professor Dame Sandra Dawson—Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University;

Mr Rowan Douglas—CEO of Willis Re Global Analytics and Chairman of Willis Research Network;

Dr Paul Golby FREng—Chairman and CEO of E.ON UK and Pro-Chancellor of Aston University;

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow FMed Sci—Vice-Chancellor University of Kent;

Dr Michael Lynch—CEO of Autonomy Corporation plc;

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS FMedSci—President and Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University;

Mr Colin Smith FREng—Director of Engineering and Technology at Rolls-Royce;

Professor Christopher Snowden FRS FREng—Vice-Chancellor and CEO of Surrey University;

Dr Graham Spittle—Vice-President and Chief Technology Officer Europe at IBM and Chair of the Technology Strategy Board.

Earlier this year the Prime Minister reappointed five CST members:

Professor Dame Janet Finch CBE—Professor of Sociology Manchester University and ex-Vice-Chancellor of Keele University;

Dr Hermann Hauser Hon CBE, FREng—Venture capitalist and co-founder of Amadeus Capital Partners;

Professor Alan Hughes—Director of the Centre for Business Research at Cambridge University;

Professor Michael Sterling FREng—Chairman of the Science and Technology Facilities Council and ex-Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University;

Sir Mark Walport FMedSci FRS—Director of the Wellcome Trust;

together with four ex officio members:

The President of the Royal Society—Sir Paul Nurse FRS;

The President of the Royal Academy of Engineering—Lord Browne FRS FREng;

The President of the Academy of Medical Sciences—Sir John Bell PMedSci FRS Hon FREng;

The President of the British Academy—Sir Adam Roberts FBA.

The Prime Minister also reappointed Professor Dame Janet Finch as independent co-chair of CST for one year, alongside the Government's chief scientific adviser, currently Professor Sir John Beddington.

Full details of CST's terms of reference and organisation can be found at http://www.bis.gov.uk/cst.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Travellers Caravan Count

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): The Government have, on 29 June, published the "Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans undertaken on 27 January 2011", along with experimental statistics on the count of Travelling Showpeople caravans.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and can be accessed via the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/caravancountjan2011

DEFENCE

Armed Forces (Council Tax Relief)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): Further to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-27, regarding the armed forces covenant, I am today announcing the increase of the rate of council tax relief for service personnel deployed on specified operations overseas, from 25% to 50%, to commence from 1 July 2011. This further underlines our commitment to rebuilding the armed forces covenant, that unique bond between the armed forces, the Government and the nation.

Nuclear Deterrent

The Secretary of State for Defence (Dr Liam Fox): As part of his statement on the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) on 19 October 2010, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said that we had reviewed our deterrence requirements and concluded that we could meet the requirement for an effective and credible deterrent with a smaller number of nuclear weapons and over the next few years would reduce the scale of the current deployed capability, incorporating this reduction into plans for the successor submarine. Therefore, we would reduce the number of warheads on board each submarine from a maximum of 48 to a maximum of 40, reduce the number of operational missiles in the VANGUARD class submarines to no more than eight, and reduce the number of operational warheads from fewer than 160 to no more than 120.

I wish to inform the House that the programme for implementing the SDSR warhead reductions has commenced: at least one of the VANGUARD class ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) now carries a maximum of 40 nuclear warheads. The programme of work to complete these changes across the VANGUARD SSBN fleet will be completed within the constraints of the deterrent's operational programme. We currently expect completion to be made within this Parliament. The Government do not comment upon the operational programme and therefore updates on this implementation programme will not be given. I will update the House further once the changes have been completed across the current SSBN fleet and the SDSR commitment to reducing our stock of operationally deployed warheads has been fulfilled. On current plans, our expectation is that the subsequent reduction in our total stockpile to no more than 180 warheads will be completed by the mid 2020s.

The early commencement of the programme for these reductions in warheads is a significant step and further demonstrates the Government's commitment to fulfilling the UK's disarmament obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The Government remain committed to maintaining the minimum credible deterrent necessary to achieve our deterrence objectives of guaranteeing national security.

JUSTICE

New Independent Assessor of Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am pleased to announce the appointment of the right hon. Dame Janet Smith DBE as the new independent assessor of miscarriages of justice compensation under section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. The assessor is appointed under schedule 12 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

The assessor's role is to assess the amount of compensation to be paid under section 133 once Ministers have decided that the eligibility criteria are met. Neither Ministers nor civil servants play any role in the assessment of compensation and I am required by section 133 (4) to accept the award made by the assessor. The assessor plays no role in deciding whether an applicant is eligible under section 133.

Dame Janet, who retired as an Appeal Court judge in May, replaces Lord Brennan of Bibury QC who has held the position since 27 July 2001 and whose term of office comes to an end on 26 July 2011. Lord Brennan indicated that he did not wish to be appointed for a further term. Dame Janet will take up her appointment on 1 July, which will initially be for two years.

The assessor is an "office holder" rather than a public appointment so the appointment rules of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) are not required to be followed.

However, in considering who should be appointed to the role, I consulted the Lord Chief Justice and he recommended Dame Janet. I was delighted to accept his recommendation.

Dame Janet is eminently qualified for the role. She has extensive experience of the assessment of damages in personal injury litigation. As a former lady justice of appeal she will continue the robust independence which her predecessors have brought to the role. As well as my full confidence, she will have the confidence of applicants and their representatives.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to Lord Brennan for the very high level of service he has provided over the past 10 years.

Ministerial Correction

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I refer to the debate following my oral statement on sentencing reform and legal aid, 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 165.

In my response to the right hon. Member for Delyn (Mr Hanson), regarding a reduction in foreign national prisoners at column 173, I gave an indicative comparative figure stating that there are now 1,000 fewer FNPs than when the previous Government left office.

I would like to correct the information I gave. As of 31 March 2011, there were 10,745 FNPs—622 fewer than on 31 March 2010, when there were 11,367 FNPs.

As I said in the debate, the Ministry of Justice continues to work with the UK Border Agency to remove FNPs at the earliest possible opportunity.

In my response to the hon. Member for Easington (Grahame M. Morris), on the issue of legal aid funding for clinical negligence claims at column 174, I stated that 80% of clinical negligence cases are currently undertaken on a no win, no fee basis.

I would like to correct the information I gave. The precise data I now have, from the NHS Litigation Authority, show that in 2008-09 5,245 claims for clinical negligence were received by the NHSLA. Of the 3,993 clinical negligence cases where the type of funding was known, 1,821 (46% of cases where funding type was known) were funded by no win, no fee conditional fee agreements, 1,145 (29%) were funded by legal aid, 632 (16%) were self-funded, and 395 (10%) were funded by "before the event" legal expenses insurance. I understand from the NHSLA that the cases where funding type was not known are unlikely to be CFA-funded. Although the NHSLA covers clinical negligence cases against NHS bodies in England only, there is no reason to suggest that the breakdown of funding arrangements for all clinical negligence cases in England and Wales is significantly different.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 30 June 2011

TREASURY

European Court of Justice Judgment (Use of Gender by Insurers)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): On 1 March, the European Court of Justice ruled that the use of gender as a risk factor by insurers should not result in individual differences in premiums and benefits for men and women, with effect from 21 December 2012.

The Government were very disappointed with this result, which it expects to have a negative impact on consumers. The judgment goes against the grain of the common sense approach to equality which the UK Government want to see. The Government believe that nobody should be treated unfairly because of their gender, but that financial services providers should be allowed to make sensible decisions based on sound analysis of relevant risk factors.

However, in the light of our obligation to implement the judgment, this statement sets out the Government's understanding of the judgment; their intention to amend the Equality Act 2010; and the steps we are taking in Europe to secure legal certainty and to ameliorate the worse effects for consumers.

Legal interpretation and domestic policy approach

The Government's view is that the judgment only applies to new contracts for insurance and related financial services entered into on or after 21 December 2012. In such contracts, the use of gender as a risk factor should not result in individual differences in premiums and benefits for men and women. However, any contracts with gender-sensitive pricing of premiums or benefits concluded ahead of 21 December 2012 can continue unchanged after that date. We will therefore proceed with amendments to schedule 3 of the Equality Act 2010. These amendments would be effected by Statutory Instrument under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, which we propose to make early next year. Beforehand, the Government propose to issue a consultation on a draft order, including a full impact assessment, in the autumn.

European policy approach

The Government are working with the European Commission and other member states to ensure a unanimous view across the EU of the implications of the judgment, and the factors that need to be considered by member states in their implementation of the judgment.

While other EU member states and the European Commission are still considering the issues raised by the judgment, early indications are that our interpretation is shared across Europe. In view of the need for legal certainty, our preferred outcome would be an amendment of the gender directive to give effect to the judgment. We are therefore disappointed that the Commission has said it has no plans to propose any amendment, leaving the text of the directive inconsistent with the court's decision. In view of the 21 December 2012 deadline, we will continue to work with other member states to press the Commission to propose such an amendment at the earliest opportunity.

The Commission has said that it proposes to issue guidance on the interpretation of the judgment and its implementation by member states. Although guidance will not offer all the advantages of a legislative amendment, we nevertheless welcome this and will work constructively to ensure it is as helpful and clear as possible. In view of industry's need for early clarity about how to implement the judgment, we will press the Commission to bring this forward as soon as possible.

CABINET OFFICE

Industrial Action

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I am updating the House on the impact of the strike action by the PCS union on the civil service today.

I can confirm that our latest data gathered from all Government Departments show that, as of 12 noon today, just less than 100,000 civil servants were on strike. This is around a fifth of the total civil service work force.

The civil service has rigorous contingency plans in place to ensure that essential public services are maintained during periods of industrial action. For example, I can confirm to the House that:

- Nearly all jobcentres are open for business, with only a handful closed to the public.
- All UK borders are open and operating with only minor delays to the travelling public.
- 150 out of 159 HMRC enquiry centres are open for business as usual.
- All HMRC contact centres are open and online services to the public are operating as usual.

Very few civil servants wanted this strike at all, and less than 10% of them voted for it. Less than half of PCS's own members chose to take part today, and far fewer than in previous strikes in 2004 and 2007. The vast majority of hard working public sector employees do not support today's premature and unjustified strike and have come into work today.

The Government are still in detailed discussions with the trade unions on public sector pension reform. We had a constructive meeting on Monday, which was one of a series of ongoing talks the Government have committed to with the TUC, and further meetings have been scheduled for July.

The Government are committed to working openly and constructively with the trade unions on public sector pensions and we believe both sides have a responsibility to see the talks through. This is a genuine consultation in order to try to agree a way forward with the unions.

The reform of public sector pensions is essential, but we will ensure that public sector pensions will still be among the very best, with a guaranteed pension which very few private sector staff now enjoy. But they will be

paid later because people live longer. And public sector staff will pay more, for a fairer balance between what they pay and what other taxpayers pay.

We know that pension reform is an important issue and one that public sector staff care about a great deal. I want to thank the vast majority of hard working public sector employees for coming in to work today, ignoring the pickets and putting the public first.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

News Corp/BSkyB Merger

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): I am today publishing the results of the consultation on the undertakings in lieu I launched on 3 March alongside the subsequent advice I have received from Ofcom and the OFT. The consultation did not produce any information which has caused Ofcom and the OFT to change their earlier advice to me. I could have decided to accept the original undertakings. However a number of constructive changes have been suggested, and as a result, I am today publishing a revised, more robust set of undertakings and will be consulting on them until midday Friday 8 July.

As previously, I was not required to involve independent regulators in assessing the revised undertakings. However I have again done so, and sought their independent advice. I am today also publishing that advice, which after careful consideration I have decided to accept.

Background

On 3 March I informed the House that based on advice that I had received from OFT and Ofcom, I was minded to accept undertakings from News Corp in lieu of a reference to the Competition Commission. As the Enterprise Act 2002 requires, I published these undertakings for a public consultation which ended on 21 March.

I received over 40,000 representations to this consultation, including a very large number of near-identical responses as a result of internet campaigns. I have placed summaries of the main responses on the DCMS website. I met representatives from Trinity Mirror, Guardian Media Group, Telegraph Media Group, Associated News and Media, and Slaughter and May on 24 March and met Avaaz on 15 April. Notes of meetings will be published at the end of the process.

The substantive points have been carefully considered by me, advised by the independent regulators.

The Carriage and Brand Licensing Agreements

The carriage and brand licensing agreements are an important part of this process and I will only accept the undertakings once I have approved these agreements.

These documents have been reviewed in great detail by OFT, Ofcom and external lawyers. I believe that their independent, expert advice provides confidence that the undertakings and key agreements are robust. They have concluded that the drafts of the carriage agreement and the brand licence agreement are now fully consistent with the proposed undertakings. In addition, OFT confirm that the terms of the carriage agreement and brand licensing agreement mean that Sky News will be practically and financially viable for the lifetime of the carriage agreement. I can now therefore confirm that I am satisfied with both agreements and am able to approve them in line with the requirement in the undertakings. I will not be publishing these agreements given the nature and the extent of the commercially confidential material they contain.

Undertakings in Lieu

I received advice from Ofcom and OFT on 22 June, copies of which have been placed on the DCMS website. Both regulators are clear that the points raised in the consultation exercise do not require them to change their previous advice to me. Nevertheless, there have been some constructive suggestions for strengthening the undertakings which I am minded to accept.

Editorial Independence

A number of changes have now been made to the undertakings to strengthen further the arrangements for editorial independence:

Sky News' articles of association set out the definition of independent directors;

Meetings of the board of Sky News about editorial or journalistic matters will

only be quorate if an independent director with senior editorial and/or journalistic expertise is present. Similar arrangements apply to the corporate governance and editorial committee. This is a response to representations that these arrangements could be undermined if this director was often unavailable for meetings for whatever reason. The change will ensure that Sky News organises its business so as to ensure that there is always appropriate senior editorial and/or journalistic expertise at relevant meetings.

The appointment of a monitoring trustee whose main role is to ensure that News Corp complies with the undertakings and make sure that News Corp does not do anything

"that would prevent Newco [i.e. the spun off Sky News] being placed in an overall position of editorial, governance, commercial and financial independence in which it will contribute to plurality as Sky News did prior to the Transaction".

Business viability

Some representations were made about Sky News' continued financial viability. I consider that Sky News' financial viability is adequately secured through the carriage and brand licensing agreements. However, in the light of representations received in response to the consultation exercise, I am proposing to modify the undertakings to ensure that Sky continues to cross-promote Sky News on its channels to a level and in a manner comparable with such cross-promotion for the period of 12 months prior to the date on which the undertakings are accepted. This is important to ensure that Sky News continues to enjoy the same promotional support as the current business.

Also, the monitoring trustee will provide advice to me in my review of the key operational agreements requiring my approval to ensure that they are fair and reasonable.

Articles of Association

Because so many of the safeguards are contained in the articles of association, including the requirement that Sky News' services will abide by the principle of editorial independence and integrity in news reporting, the undertakings have been amended so that I have to approve them. Furthermore, News Corp has offered an additional undertaking not to attempt to cause Sky News to act in breach of its articles of association. A copy has been published along with the consultation document and the revised undertakings.

These are the main changes. All the changes are set out in the published revised undertakings, and a more detailed explanation of the reasons for the changes is included in the consultation document and OFT's report. In my view, they provide a further layer of very important safeguards. As amended, I believe that the undertakings will remedy, mitigate, or prevent the threats to plurality which were identified at the start of this process. I therefore propose to accept the undertakings in lieu of a reference to the Competition Commission.

I have today placed on my Department's website a revised version of the undertakings and an associated consultation document. There will now be a final consultation period starting today and ending at midday on Friday 8 July. During this time all interested parties will be able to express their views on the revised undertakings.

Once again I will seek the advice of Ofcom and the OFT on any responses to this consultation. As expert regulators they are best placed to thoroughly understand the issues and to offer comprehensive and impartial advice. Once I have considered these representations and the independent regulators' advice, I will reach a decision on whether I still consider that the undertakings should still be accepted in lieu of a reference to the Competition Commission. If, after the consultation, I remain of the view that the undertakings properly address the concerns about media plurality, I will accept them and not refer this merger to the Competition Commission.

I am required to publish the revised undertakings in lieu and an explanation as to why I have made the proposed changes, and I have done so. In the interests of transparency I have also published a number of other documents where there is no legal requirement upon me to do so. These are: the advice I have received from OFT and Ofcom; the Articles of Association of Sky News; and a summary of responses to the consultation process. The carriage agreement and the brand licence agreement have not beeen published given the nature and the extent of the commercially confidential material they contain. I hope that this openness will help strengthen public confidence in the process and decision.

Other issues raised in the consultation

During the consultation period, a number of issues were raised that were not material to the issue of media plurality.

A number of respondents raised competition issues. In addition to the fact that this could not be considered as part of the media plurality public interest test, these issues have already been considered by the European Commission which concluded on 21 December last year that the increased shareholding would not significantly impede effective competition.

Some respondents also argued that News Corp could not be relied upon to abide by the requirements set out in the undertakings, citing previous guarantees and assurances given by News in the past, and the current phone-hacking allegations against The News of the World.

I have taken the view that News has offered serious undertakings and discussed them in good faith. In all the circumstances, and given that the implementation of those undertakings will be overseen by the monitoring trustee and thereafter monitored, and if necessary enforced, by the OFT, I believe that there are sufficient safeguards to ensure compliance with the undertakings. Furthermore, the various agreements entered into pursuant to the undertakings will each be enforceable contracts. Therefore while the phone-hacking allegations are very serious they were not material to my consideration.

I would also like to draw attention to a point stressed by Ofcom in its report. Namely, that the undertakings must be assessed against the fact that the plurality concerns arose out of a change in the degree of control News Corporation has over Sky. The undertakings do not and should not seek to establish Sky News in a position where News Corporation has no relationship with it at all, because today News Corporation controls 37.19% of Sky's voting shares.

I am committed to maintaining the free and independent press for which this country is famous. I have sought and published independent advice throughout this process. I have listened carefully to points made in the consultation and amended the undertakings where appropriate. I have also gone for maximum transparency while taking reasonable account of commercial confidentiality considerations. I continue to believe that, if I allow this deal to proceed, Sky News will be able to continue its high-quality output and in fact will have greater protections for its operational and editorial independence than those that exist today.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Review of Statutory Duties on Local Authorities

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): In March, I announced our intention to take stock of the statutory duties placed on local authorities by central Government and at that time, I committed to keeping the House informed of progress.

At no point in recent history has there been a comprehensive list of the legal duties placed on councils.

The Government therefore agreed with the Local Government Association that we should compile a list of these duties to give clarity about what these duties are. We recognise that many ensure the provision of vital front line services but there are others which may be creating unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy for local authorities.

We published the draft list in March and invited local authorities and the general public to respond, identifying any existing duties that needed to be added to the list to make it more comprehensive and identify any that were redundant. For the avoidance of doubt, inclusion of a particular duty on the overall list was not an indication that the Government were considering that duty for removal.

The opportunity to comment closed in April. We received much public interest with over 6,000 respondents. Many respondents focused on protecting vital services, such as support for disabled children and children with special educational needs, allotments and libraries, all of which we have committed to maintaining. There was also significant interest in removing process-based

requirements placed on local authorities as an important step in moving towards a decentralised system of governance.

This review has not happened in isolation, for example, the Munro review on child protection and the Law Commission's work on adult social care are currently being considered by Government. This work did not seek to pre-empt the outcomes of such reviews.

From the outset, we have been clear this is an exercise in compiling as comprehensive a list of duties as possible and obtaining feedback on those thought to be redundant. We said unequivocally that the Government would not remove any statutory duties that protect vital front line services.

In closing this review I am today publishing a summary of responses and the latest revised list of duties, which has been updated with feedback from the responses received. I have made both available on the Department's website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/tacklingburdens/reviewstatutoryduties/

Also, I have placed a copy of the summary by my Department and the latest revised list of duties in the Library of the House.

At the point of publication of the consultation, we had identified that there were at least 1,294 duties imposed on each local authority. Between 1997-2009, 647 duties were imposed that are still current today. The table below illustrates the introduction of new duties by Government Administration:

Table: Statutory duties placed on local government by central Government extant in 2011 by Government Administration

By period of Introduction	*Proportion*
Pre-1979	8%
1979-1996	39%
1997-2009	50%
2010-2011	3%
	100%

This exercise has successfully enabled a clearer picture of the requirements placed on local authorities, and created a valuable record that had previously never existed.

Any future consideration of whether to remove specific duties or associated guidance will be a separate process, and we will consult further as appropriate.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Individual Electoral Registration

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): I am announcing today the publication of draft legislation on individual electoral registration (IER) for pre-legislative scrutiny. The draft legislation is accompanied by a White Paper which sets out the proposals for how this will be implemented.

An electoral register that is secure and trusted, and as complete and accurate as possible, is a key component for our democracy. It is widely recognised that the current system of electoral registration, which has been in place since the early twentieth century, is outdated and requires change. It is also clear that, although proven electoral fraud is relatively rare, there is widespread concern about electoral fraud in this country.

In the coalition programme for government we said we would

"reduce electoral fraud by speeding up the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration".

I announced on 15 September 2010 our intention to legislate to speed up the move to IER by introducing it into Great Britain fully during this Parliament, in 2014. Individual electoral registration will bring greater protection against electoral fraud and modernise our electoral system. IER will ask each person to register themselves, rather than by household, and provide information which will be cross checked by registration officers before a person is added to the electoral register.

Learning from the experience in Northern Ireland we have put in place arrangements to help people manage the transition to the new system. Any electors who do not respond to the initial invitation to register under IER in 2014 will be carried forward unless the registration officer has concerns the registration is ineligible. An individual registration would be required for new registrations and for any elector who wishes to use an absent vote.

The White Paper also considers how else the system of electoral registration could be modernised, making it easier and more convenient to register to vote. Reforming the system also provides the opportunity to take steps to tackle the problem of under-registration. The UK's registration rate compares well internationally but evidence suggests that a significant number of people are missing from the register. This year data-matching pilots will allow registration officers to compare their electoral register with other public databases to identify people missing from the register or entries on the register that are inaccurate or fraudulent. If data matching proves effective, we will consider rolling it out more widely across the country.

It should be made absolutely clear that no new national databases will be created and that no additional information will be placed on the electoral register as a result of the changes to the system.

We are committed to ensuring there is sufficient funding for implementation, with £108 million allocated over the course of the spending review period. We have also sought to reduce costs where possible and have already cut £74 million of the costs of the previous Government's plans by dropping the voluntary phase.

In developing the proposals in the draft legislation and the White Paper we have worked closely with and listened to the views of stakeholders. I thank those who have already provided valuable input into the development of the proposals, and welcome input during the pre-legislative scrutiny period from those and others who have not yet had the opportunity to engage with us.

Copies of the White Paper and draft legislation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Memorandum of Understanding (UK Government and the Devolved Administrations)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): A meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) of Ministers from the UK Government and the three devolved Administrations took place at 10 Downing Street on 8 June 2011. With respect to the Memorandum of Understanding between their Administrations, the Ministers agreed, first, that amendments should be made to the memorandum; and, secondly, that the secretariat to the JMC should initiate a technical review of the memorandum which should report to the domestic and/or European sub-committees of the JMC in due course.

The amendments to the memorandum focus on the dispute-resolution protocol contained in annex A.3. The purpose of the amendments is to allow for the possibility of an independent third-party providing an analysis of an inter-administration dispute where all four administrations agree that independent analysis would be helpful.

A copy of the memorandum has been placed in the Library of the House and can be found in the Vote Office and on the Cabinet Office website, www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

EDUCATION

Industrial Action in Schools

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): On Tuesday I gave a statement to the House on this Government's response to the planned industrial action by two of the classroom unions. In that response I outlined the action I had taken and I also provided data on likely closures based on early estimates from local authorities and academies.

We now have a fuller picture, updated this morning based on data from all 152 local authorities and all 707 academies.

Our data show that 5,679 local authority schools were closed, 4,999 were partially open and 5,860 were fully open, while the situation with a further 4,320 has not been reported to us.

The figures also show that of the 707 academies and city technology colleges, 201 were closed, 235 were partially open and 271 fully open.

This means that 27% of all local authority schools were closed, 24% were partially open and 28% were open. Data were unavailable for the remaining 21%. Of the academies, 28% were closed, 33% were partially open, and 38% open.

I know that many teachers are concerned about the changes that have been proposed to their pensions. But I believe that we must resolve these differences through discussions and that the action today, while discussions are still going on, was disappointing and unnecessary. I am grateful to head teachers and governors who have worked hard to keep schools open. And I am particularly grateful to all those school staff who—while they may also have concerns about pensions—have decided to go into work today to minimise the impact on pupils and their parents. However, I am also disappointed that there has been disruption to the lives of so many parents across the country. The Government remain committed to discussing pension reforms with all the teacher unions openly, honestly and constructively.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Simplifying the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): Last year in the annual energy statement my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State announced that we would consider the future of the climate change agreements and review the CRC energy efficiency scheme. We did this because we wanted to ensure that the policies we had inherited from the previous Administration were fit for the future, and that any regulations we retained were less burdensome for business, and more practicable. Today we will set out our initial conclusions following a helpful dialogue with business, the public sector and regulators. As part of this, we have considered radical options, including the possibility of scrapping either or both of the schemes to simplify the landscape. We have concluded that in order to achieve our objectives, while at the same time minimising burdens on business, we will retain and simplify both the CRC and CCAs, with a particular emphasis on ensuring the overlaps are removed and the schemes are each streamlined.

The first reporting year of the CRC is now over, and many organisations are, for the first time, identifying and recording their entire energy use. Over this period we have seen the importance of the CRC for stimulating the market for new low-carbon goods and service industries—including in energy measurement, in voltage optimisers and in low-energy lighting. I expect this to continue.

Today my Department, together with the devolved Administrations, publishes a vision for the way ahead in simplifying the CRC scheme. This document sets out the main simplifications that we would like to propose for formal consultation early next year. These proposals will provide greater business certainty by continuing the fixed price sales into the second phase (rather than auctions of allowances in a capped system), as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change and requested by stakeholders. Our proposals will provide business with greater flexibility by allowing organisations to participate as natural business units. They will also reduce the administrative burden; for example by reducing the number of the fuels which are subject to the scheme from 29 to four. We will also reduce the complexity of the scheme by removing the 90% rule and CCA exemption rules, while achieving broadly the same outcomes and remove any overlap between schemes at registration. In particular, businesses covered entirely by CCAs will not need to register and we will no longer require EU ETS installations to purchase allowances for electricity supplies.

Some have suggested that we should replace the CRC with a conventional tax. After considering this, and

other policy alternatives suggested by stakeholders, we have decided to retain the CRC, in a simplified form. We believe that the tailored combination of reputational, financial and standardised energy measurement and monitoring drivers remain the most effective way to tackle the barriers to the uptake of energy efficiency. We have ample evidence that price alone does not ensure non-energy intensive organisations implement cost-effective energy efficiency measures which are available to them. Therefore, we consider the simplified CRC—alongside the Green Deal—is the best way to achieve greater energy efficiency and contribute to meeting our carbon budgets in the relevant sectors.

These proposed changes provide the basis for a simplified CRC and certainty for the future. We will review CRC and its fit with other policy measures in 2017.

Following the Budget announcement to increase CCA participants' tax relief and extend the scheme until 2023, and as part of the considerations to streamline and simplify the policy landscape we have also considered options for the future of CCAs. We will shortly publish a consultation on revisions to the scheme to reduce its administrative burden on participants. We are exploring moving the future administration of the scheme to the Environment Agency, to exploit the synergies with the EU Emissions Trading System and the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, already administered by the agency. This will give industry a one stop shop for energy efficiency regulation. Target negotiation will remain a matter for Government and the sectors.

Finally, we have looked at the interplay between the EU Emissions Trading System and UK regulation, in particular how the UK can best implement the provisions in the directive that allow for small emitters to opt out. My officials are continuing to discuss options with the European Commission and are developing proposals on the "equivalent measures" as required by the directive. These discussions have not yet concluded. I am grateful for the assistance my Department has received from the UK Emissions Trading Group in making the case to Brussels for proportionate implementation of the directive.

In order to ensure our CRC proposals maximise the simplification opportunities, and take account of all the lessons learned in the first full reporting cycle, DECC and the devolved Administrations will continue the informal dialogue with participants throughout this autumn. My Department and the devolved Administrations will welcome comments on our proposed way forward published today. We will then formally consult on legislative proposals early next year.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Pet Travel Scheme

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): Today I am announcing changes to the rules on the movement of pet dogs, cats and ferrets into the UK under the pet travel scheme. These changes will make it cheaper and easier for people to travel with their pets while putting in place proportionate controls to prevent rabies incursion and enabling the UK to maintain its rabies-free status.

The pet travel scheme is the system of controls in place to reduce the risk of rabies and certain parasites from entering the UK via the importation of domestic pet animals.

Before pets can enter the UK under the pet travel scheme they must meet certain animal health requirements, such as being vaccinated against rabies, which are laid down in European Union (EU) law (EC Regulation 998/2003). The EU regulation applies to all pet dogs, cats and ferrets moving between member states and from non-EU countries into the EU and sets out standard entry conditions. The regulation currently provides two temporary derogations to the UK to apply more stringent controls on rabies, ticks and tapeworm. These derogations expire on 31 December 2011.

Having considered all the options very carefully, I have decided, in agreement with ministerial colleagues in the devolved Administrations, that from 1 January 2012 the UK will harmonise its controls on rabies with the EU-wide pet movement system. This is in line with the positions of Ireland, Sweden and Malta who will also be harmonising their rabies controls from this date.

The key differences between the current pet travel scheme rules and how they will change from the 1 January 2012 are:

Pets travelling from other EU member states and "listed" third countries (countries which the EU considers do not present a higher risk of rabies incursion compared to movements within the EU, for example USA, Australia and Japan) will no longer need to be blood tested after they have been vaccinated against rabies.

Pets travelling from other EU member states and listed third countries will only have to wait 21 days following their rabies vaccination before they can enter the UK, rather than waiting 6 months as they do now.

Pets travelling from "unlisted" third countries (countries which have not applied or been accepted for listed status because of less robust veterinary or administrative systems or higher rabies incidence, such as China, India and South Africa) will no longer be required to undergo six months' compulsory quarantine and will be able to enter the UK if they meet certain requirements These include being microchipped and having been vaccinated against rabies and passed a blood test. They will not be allowed to enter the UK for at least four months after the date of the vaccination.

Pet owners who need to travel to the UK at short notice will continue to have the option of voluntarily placing their pet in UK quarantine, where it will be required to undergo the necessary health treatments, such as being vaccinated and blood tested if required, before being released.

The European Commission has given a strong indication that it will shortly come forward with proposals that would enable the UK and other tapeworm-free countries to retain tapeworm controls with a treatment window of one to five days. There will be no mandatory tick treatment before pets enter the UK.

Rabies

The proposed changes to the controls on rabies are proportionate to the disease risks involved and are scientifically justified. Since the UK pet travel scheme was introduced in 2000, the likelihood of a human case of rabies in Europe has substantially reduced as a result of an effective and ongoing programme to reduce the disease in the domestic and wild animal populations of EU member states, together with improvements in the accessibility to rabies vaccination and post-exposure treatment. There has been not one reported case of rabies in the EU associated with the legal movement of

pets under the EU pet movement system since it was introduced in 2004, with many hundreds of thousands of pet movements having taken place during that time.

This reduction in the level of rabies across the EU is reflected in the findings of a quantitative risk assessment undertaken for Defra by the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. Their report, which has been peer reviewed, concluded that the risk of a rabies case in the UK will remain very low when we harmonise with the EU pet movement rules, with a chance of, on average, one case in 211 years. The risk of an outbreak leading to a human fatality in the UK would be much lower. This report has been published on the Defra website today.

In addition to the robust scientific case for harmonisation, these revised pet movement rules will deliver substantial benefits to UK pet owners, particularly those people with assistance dogs, making it easier and more affordable for the people who presently travel from the UK and back with their pets (on average 100,000) each year and will open opportunities for many more to travel abroad with their pets. It will also reduce the time dogs need to spend cooped up in kennels. The annual benefits of reduced controls to pet owners resident in the UK are estimated to be £7 million. These changes will also provide UK citizens the same level of free movement with their pet animals which other EU citizens are allowed.

We will continue to ensure that the UK maintains a robust level of protection against rabies, given the seriousness of the disease. We have robust plans in place to deal with rabies should it be detected. As part of our ongoing disease preparedness work we keep the rabies control strategy under constant review, and will be consulting with stakeholder organisations later this year to ensure our plans remain appropriate and proportionate. When the rules change on 1 January 2012 we will be looking to ensure that every pet arriving in the UK will continue to be checked to ensure that it meets the EU requirements, regardless of which country it comes from, and we expect the private quarantine sector to retain a vital role in dealing with non-compliant animals. Stringent penalties remain in place for those that breach the law by smuggling animals into the country or by knowingly using false or misleading information/documentation.

Tapeworm

The UK is currently free of the tapeworm Echinococcus multilocularis and there is a strong scientific case for keeping controls in place to prevent its incursion into the UK. The European Commission has given a strong indication that it will shortly come forward with proposals that would enable the UK and other tapeworm-free countries to retain tapeworm controls with a treatment window of one to five days.

Ticks

Tick controls will no longer apply when the rules change on 1 January 2012. Although ticks which are capable of transmitting the disease Mediterranean Spotted Fever might enter the UK via pet movements, they could also enter the UK via other routes (for example on people or vehicles). Even then, the likelihood of ticks establishing in the UK is negligible. Our evidence base for maintaining tick controls is less robust than for tapeworm and we would have difficulty putting forward a case to show tick controls are fully effective, scientifically justified and proportionate to the risk of disease incursion. We will continue to work with vets to encourage pet owners travelling abroad to treat their pets against ticks, as they do at present, as part of good pet ownership practice. Pet owners are advised to talk to their vets about the appropriate course of action for their animals when planning a trip abroad.

There are a number of practical issues that still need to be worked through and Defra will be engaging with key stakeholders, including the quarantine and carrier industries, over the coming months. Members of the public who intend to travel abroad with their pet from 1 January 2012 should consult the Defra website for advice on the procedures to follow in the first instance, contact the Pets helpline or speak to their vet.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Libya (Equipment for the National Transitional Council)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I informed the House on 16 May 2011, *Official Report,* vol 528, column 161, that the Government intended to provide additional practical and material support to the National Transitional Council (NTC), as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people. I can now confirm that the following additional equipment has been granted to the NTC for the sole use of the civilian police force.

5,000 sets of body armour;

6,650 police uniforms;

5,000 high visibility vests and t-shirts;

Communications equipment for police stations.

Provision of this equipment is fully in line with UNSCRs 1970 and 1973, including the arms embargo. This equipment will enable the civilian police to carry out their functions more securely and better protect NTC representatives and the significant international and NGO communities in Benghazi, Misrata and other areas of Libya now controlled by the NTC.

Under the HM Treasury guidelines set out in "Managing Public Money" these items are grants and grants-in-aid to the NTC and not gifts. Therefore Crown immunity applies to the supply of body armour and an export licence is not required. The other equipment does not require export licences. However, I am committed to keeping Parliament informed, which is why I am setting this out in a WMS.

Public Records: Colonial Documents

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In my statement to the House on 5 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS, I announced my intention to appoint a senior and independent figure to oversee the process of reviewing and transferring migrated archives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to The National Archives.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Tony Badger, Paul Mellon Professor of American history and Master of Clare College at the university of Cambridge, to this position.

The independent reviewer will:

Provide independent oversight of the process of selection, review and release into the public domain of papers from the FCO's "migrated archives".

Provide assurance to the wider public that the process is being carried out in accordance with my commitment to transparency, notably my intention to release

"every part of every paper of interest, subject only to legal exemptions".

These exemptions are set out in the Freedom of Information Act,

Offer guidance on prioritisation of the files for selection, review and release to ensure that the papers of greatest interest or highest significance are dealt with first and without undue delay.

Provide independent scrutiny of the steps FCO has taken to locate or confirm destruction of the missing top secret files.

Send a short report to me at the conclusion of the process, for publication.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Research and Development

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): On 27 January I announced a review of research and development in forensic science. The Government are today publishing this review and copies will be placed in the House Library. The review is also available on the Home Office website.

I welcome this review into research and development in forensic science. I would like to encourage all members of the forensic science community to consider it carefully, and consider how they can work together to co-ordinate, deliver and communicate research in this important field.

Research within commercial providers is one element of a much bigger landscape. I note the recommendation that the Home Office forensic transition board, which I chair, should pay specific attention to the research and development requirement in the framework agreement for forensic science providers. The review shows that research and development is already an integral part of the work of any commercial forensic science provider and that there are natural links between casework and research.

I fully accept the recommendation and can underline the Home Office's view that forensic science providers do need to undertake appropriate research and development to support their role in the criminal justice system. Providers competing to provide innovative services at the lowest cost will preserve police resources and maximise the positive impact forensic sciences can have on tackling crime.

Professor Silverman, the Home Office chief scientific adviser, will continue to work with the forensic science research community and research funders to help co-ordinate and support research in forensic science.

National DNA Database Ethics Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I am pleased to announce the publication of the fourth annual report of the National DNA Database Ethics Group on 27 June 2011. The group was established on 25 July 2007 to provide Ministers with independent ethical advice on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

I welcome the consideration given in the report to a number of important issues. The Government share the concerns of the group to ensure both the effectiveness of the database and its ethical operation. The Protection of Freedoms Bill takes account of the advice of, and a number of concerns raised by, the group. For example, as well as requiring the destruction of all DNA samples within six months of being taken, the Bill places the National DNA Database strategy board on a statutory footing and requires the Home Secretary to lay the board's annual report before Parliament.

The ethics group's annual report can be viewed on the website of the independent forensic science regulator and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

JUSTICE

Matrimonial Property and Registered Partnership Property Regimes

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Government have today decided not to opt in to the European Commission's proposals on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions in matters of matrimonial property regimes and the property consequences of registered partnerships.

The Commission's proposals aim to regulate jurisdiction and applicable law as they apply both to the daily management of the property of spouses and registered partners (which would include civil partnerships registered in the UK) and to how disputes relating to the distribution of assets in cross-border situations are handled following the ending of a couple's relationship through divorce or dissolution of the partnership, separation or death.

The broad balance of opinion from the Government's consultation was that it would not be in the UK's interests to participate in these proposals. A number of difficulties were identified. First, the concept of a matrimonial property regime (or equivalent for civil partners) does not exist in the UK in the sense understood in most other member states. Currently our courts take a wide view of the capital resources available to the parties on divorce or dissolution (including maintenance). Many of these issues are not included in traditional matrimonial property regimes. If the UK was to opt in it would be more difficult for our courts to deal with all aspects of the financial provision of international couples on divorce or dissolution in cases which fall within the scope of these proposals.

Concerns were raised about how the use of foreign law could drive up costs and complicate the resolution of disputes in the family courts and create uncertainty for third-parties who enter into a legal relationship with the couple. There was also considered to be uncertainty about the interaction with succession law.

Both the House of Lords European Union Select Committee and the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee have recommended the UK should not opt-in.

PRIME MINISTER

Reports of the Chief Surveillance, Interception of Communications, and Intelligence Services Commissioners

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I have today laid before both Houses the annual reports of the former Intelligence Services Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Gibson (HC 1240), the Interception of Communications Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Kennedy (HC 1239) and the Chief Surveillance Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Sir Christopher Rose (HC 1111).

The responsibility of the Commissioners is to provide independent oversight of the use of the investigative powers contained in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Intelligence Services Act 1994 and the Police Act 1997. They play a vitally important role in ensuring that public authorities make use of these powers in a way which is necessary, for a legitimate aim and also proportionate to what is sought to be achieved. They are required under the provisions of the legislation to provide an annual report to me with respect to the carrying out of their functions.

All three Commissioners have concluded that these powers are being used properly and appropriately, in accordance with the requirements set out in statute and that respective Secretaries of State and the various members of the intelligence services, police and law enforcement authorities and other public authorities are properly complying with the duties set out in the legislation. They consider that the public authorities concerned are undertaking their work with diligence and in accordance with the law. There have, regrettably, been breaches and errors. However, these have been relatively few in number and in all cases they were caused by procedural or technical problems that have since been addressed.

I am grateful to Sir Peter, Sir Paul and Sir Christopher and to the inspectors and staff which support them, for their work on these reports—which taken together represent a significant increase in the transparency and oversight of these intrusive powers.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing (Charges)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): I am publishing today, a consultation paper on proposals to change the charging regime at the Dartford-Thurrock river crossing. The proposals concern new possible charging rates according to type of vehicle using the crossing.

The Dartford-Thurrock river crossing is a key part of the strategic road network. It consists of two two-lane tunnels carrying traffic to the north, and a four-lane cable stayed bridge (the Queen Elizabeth II bridge) carrying traffic to the south. The crossing spans the River Thames between Dartford and Thurrock, forming a trunk road link (the A282 trunk road) in the M25 orbital motorway.

A road user charge has been collected at the crossing since 2003, using the powers in the Transport Act 2000, in order to manage the high demand for use of the crossing. The Department for Transport (DfT) revised the charging regime in 2008 following public consultation. Details of the current charging regime are set out in the A282 Trunk Road (Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme) Order 2008 (Statutory Instrument No. 1951).

In recognition of the strategic importance of the crossing the Government are committed to tackling the current and forecast performance issues affecting the crossing. As part of the spending review, the Department announced that, subject to consultation, prices would increase from £1.50 to £2.00 in 2011 for cars, rising to £2.50 in 2012 and that prices for other vehicles would also increase. The proposal to increase the charges at the crossing is both a measure to manage demand and to help to fund transport investment. For this reason I am today launching a consultation on proposals to change the charges.

The consultation makes reference to, but does not include detailed proposals for, other short, medium and long-term measures to be taken forward in this spending review period in relation to the crossing. In the short term we are announcing an initial six-month trial of a protocol for suspension of the charges during periods when the severity of congestion is such as to constitute an emergency, and charge suspension would help to ease that congestion.

In the medium term our objectives are, the introduction of a free-flow charging scheme and a review of options for additional crossing capacity.

I am pleased to announce that the consultation will run until 23 September 2011. Everybody with an interest is invited to take part. A consultation document and instructions for responding can be found on my Department's website. An electronic copy has been lodged with the House Library. A public notice marking the publication of these proposals will be posted in the *London Gazette* and the *Dartford Messenger* on 30 June and in the *Thurrock Gazette* on the 1 July and copies of all the documents will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Dartford borough council and Thurrock council.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Community Care Grants

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am announcing changes to the community care grant scheme to ensure the fund is appropriately used. Discretionary social fund directions will be amended with effect from 4 July 2011.

The Public Accounts Committee hearing on the community care grant scheme was held on 3 November 2010. One of the recommendations was that more could be done to prevent abuse of the scheme. I am therefore amending Social Fund Direction 7 to prevent repeat applications being awarded, unless there has been a relevant change of circumstances. The current direction, which applies to both community care grants and crisis loans, prevents repeat applications being awarded if an application is made within 28 days of a previous application for the same expenses. This period will be extended to 12 months.

The 12-month time limit has been chosen because this is broadly in line with manufacturers guarantee

periods. In addition the period is well within the scope of the Sale of Goods Act and is a reasonable period during which customers are able, if goods are faulty, to take the matter up with the retailer.

I am also taking the opportunity to make some minor and technical amendments to the directions.

Copies of the amended Secretary of State directions have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 4 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Extraordinary EU Competitiveness Council (27 June 2011)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Baroness Wilcox, has today made the following statement:

I represented the UK at an extraordinary EU Competitiveness Council which took place in Luxembourg on 27 June 2011.

The presidency had organised this extra Council to reach agreement of general approaches for two draft EU regulations on the creation of an EU unitary patent under the enhanced co-operation process (involving 25 member states); and on the EU unitary patent language translation arrangements. The UK had successfully lobbied the presidency to postpone these decisions until this Council in June to allow time for parliamentary scrutiny.

At the Council the Hungarian EU presidency and the Commission repeated their support for the unitary patent. In my intervention I supported the general approaches for both draft EU regulations and I commented on two particular elements of the proposals—first that the system for the distribution and renewal of fees will need to be administered in a way that does not impose unjustified extra costs; and secondly that future implementation would need to be legally robust. All the 25 member states in the enhanced co-operation process unanimously confirmed their support for both general approaches and they were therefore agreed. The presidency and the Commission however confirmed that work would need to continue on the details of the proposals over the next six months, under the forthcoming Polish EU presidency.

There were also three short any other business items taken without any discussion among member states. These comprised information given by the presidency about EU energy research activities and confirmation that agreement had been reached on the Euratom framework research programme and on the EU consumer rights directive.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): I have today laid before Parliament the "National Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals" in accordance with Section 14A of the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended); this provision came into force on 24 March 2003.

This plan sets out the operational response arrangements DEFRA will put in place to deal with any occurrence of foot and mouth disease, avian influenza or Newcastle disease. The plan is also applicable to all other exotic diseases of animals.

The plan outlines the systems and structures which are established and details the roles and responsibilities of Ministers and officials during an outbreak of disease and also highlights the work undertaken on preparedness for an outbreak.

It replaces DEFRA's "Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases" which was laid before Parliament on 15 December 2009.

DEFRA's contingency plan is very much a "living document". It will be subject to ongoing revision taking on the latest developments in science, research, and epidemiological modelling together with lessons identified from outbreaks.

To meet the provisions of the Animal Health Act, the plan will also be subject to annual review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consular Evacuation Procedures

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In the light of the challenges posed by the evacuation of British nationals from Libya, I announced on 23 February that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would review its arrangements for leading the evacuations of British nationals in a crisis. I said that the review would consider the contingency arrangements that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and all posts have in place, and the triggers and procedures for moving to a crisis footing and mounting civilian and military evacuation operations.

That review is now complete and I am today placing a copy in the Library of the House. I have given instructions that its recommendations should be implemented in full by 31 December 2011.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, working closely with the Ministry of Defence and key allies and partners, evacuated over 800 British nationals and over 1,000 other nationals from Libya in the space of a number of days. This was a significant achievement but the operation presented huge challenges because of the volatile and deteriorating situation in Libya. It stretched the FCO's crisis response capability, taking place as it did against the backdrop of a wider and unfolding crisis in the middle east and north Africa region that had already seen evacuations of British nationals from Tunisia and Egypt. The earthquake in New Zealand, with British nationals among the fatalities, added to the pressure.

Both the Prime Minister and I have told the House that there are lessons we would wish to learn from this evacuation and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has already acted on a number of the recommendations in the review, including: extending the range of suppliers who we can call on to provide charter flights to support any assisted departure or evacuation; increasing staffing in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's crisis management department; enhancing crisis training for staff; making ever greater use of both traditional and digital channels to communicate with British nationals in a crisis; and developing a better crisis management command and control structure within the FCO.

Implementing the findings of the review will help further strengthen the FCO's crisis response function. The security and well-being of British nationals is always our absolute priority in a crisis. The evacuation of British nationals from Libya was the most complex FCO-led evacuation in recent years. Learning the lessons from recent events will ensure we are ready for the different circumstances the next crisis will present.

HEALTH

Commission on the Funding of Care and Support

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The final report of the Independent commission on the funding of care and support, "Fairer Care Funding", has been published today and a copy has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

I shall make an oral statement later today.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (Final Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The final report of the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD), prepared at the request of the British and Irish Governments, has been published today by both Governments. I have placed a copy of the report in the Library.

This final report reflects on the IICD's 12 years in operation from September 1997 to the ending of the decommissioning amnesty in February 2010. It provides an account of arms decommissioned by paramilitary organisations, a summary of key factors that enabled the commission to deliver its objectives and highlights the lessons learnt.

The commission's remit was to provide a mechanism, entirely independent of Government, to execute the decommissioning of paramilitary arms in a manner that rendered them permanently inaccessible or unusable. The task was difficult and the commissioners worked tirelessly to achieve it. There is no doubt that their independence and high level of commitment were crucial in gaining the confidence of paramilitary organisations. The resulting major acts of decommissioning they secured have contributed to making Northern Ireland a more peaceful, stable and inclusive society.

Many will be expecting an inventory to be included in the report. The IICD did not provide the British and Irish Governments with an inventory when they submitted their final report. This was rightly a decision taken independently by the commission. The commissioners say in their final report that

"providing details now of what paramilitary arms have been put beyond use, could, in our opinion, encourage attacks on those groups which have taken risks for peace. This is true of both loyalists and republican paramilitary groups. We would not wish, inadvertently, to discourage future decommissioning events by groups that are actively engaged today, nor to deter groups that have decommissioned their arms from handing over any arms that may subsequently come to light" (paragraph 30).

The IICD has made arrangements for the safe retention of the records of decommissioned arms by the United States Department of State in Washington who will hold them securely.

Sadly, as recent violent events revealed, there remain those who have rejected peace and politics and who want to drag Northern Ireland back to its troubled past. However, the majority of paramilitary organisations have decided to pursue their goals by political and democratic means exclusively. The IICD's final report is a valuable insight into how this has been achieved. Northern Ireland has made great strides towards stable, local democracy and I wish to place on record my immense gratitude to the Commission and their staff for their enormous contribution and longstanding commitment to their work.

Independent Monitoring Commission (Final Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The 26th and final report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC), prepared at the request of the British and Irish Governments, has been published today by both Governments. I am laying the report before Parliament.

The IMC was set up in 2004. The commission's remit was to independently monitor and report on paramilitary activities, on security normalisation, and any claims that any Minister or party in the Northern Ireland Assembly was not committed to democratic means.

During the seven years over which the IMC carried out this role, the level and nature of paramilitary activity has changed significantly. Operation Banner was successfully completed and the political situation in Northern Ireland has been transformed with devolution now complete and the Northern Ireland Assembly entering its second term.

The IMC has played a significant part in supporting and enabling historic changes over the years. Its independence has been vital in gaining the confidence of all those it worked with and is clearly illustrated in what they have delivered. I would like to place on record my deep gratitude to the IMC commissioners and staff for their sustained commitment over the past seven years.

The commission's final report documents the changes that have taken place during this period and provides an assessment of the factors that helped it in delivering its remit and the lessons learnt. It is a valuable document which will be of interest to those who are, have been and continue to be involved in the peace and political process in Northern Ireland as well as to those who are involved in conflict transformation more widely. I am grateful to the IMC for its detailed and thorough report.

As the IMC themselves note, while the commission has completed its remit, the security position In Northern Ireland is far from ideal. As the violence in a part of East Belfast recently revealed, there remain those who have rejected peace and politics and who actively work to undermine it. The Government remain committed to doing all they can to end violence and to enable all the people of Northern Ireland to live peacefully and safely as is their right. I am conscious that Parliament and the public will wish to be kept informed of progress on a

regular basis. I therefore intend to make statements to Parliament every six months summarising the threat, in keeping with the time scales on which the IMC used to issue its reports.

WORK AND PENSIONS

The Work Programme

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): I am delighted to announce that the Work programme is now fully operational across Great Britain. The Government's vision of a high-quality, personalised employment programme for those benefit claimants who need more intensive support is now a reality. Many individuals are already actively engaged and receiving the support they need to find work.

Last week I visited our providers in the north-west and was impressed by their commitment and drive to deliver. I will be visiting all Work programme providers through the course of the year. I look forward to seeing the real differences to people's lives they are achieving and how the investment we are making will have long-term impacts to achieve sustained job outcomes.

As you know we are giving providers more freedom than ever before to work with those that have become long-term unemployed or who are at risk of becoming so. By having longer contracts and allowing providers to work with customers for two years, providers have the space and time to work innovatively and creatively to really make a difference. The flagship payment by results funding model sends the message that we want hard outcomes, and by paying more for those who face greater challenges we are saying to providers that we will reward them for hard work.

I am confident we have given the Work programme every chance of making a real difference to long-term worklessness. We expect to see substantial indications of the success of the programme from spring 2013.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Insolvency Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I have today agreed to the publication of the Insolvency Service's Corporate Plan for the period 2011-15.

Over the past 18 months there has been a significant fall in the number of bankruptcies which has driven the number of new compulsory insolvency cases dealt with by the official receiver down from 78,000 cases in 2009-10 to an expected level of 45,000 to 55,000 cases in 2011-12. In response to this, the service has cut its costs principally by reducing its staff complement from 3,200 to 2,100 by May 2010.

While this is a significant reduction in capacity in a relatively short time, I am satisfied that the service will be able to maintain the levels of service that it achieved in 2010-11 and so I have decided that the service's targets for timeliness, customer satisfaction and efficiency should be maintained at 2010-11 levels. The service will aim to achieve a real-terms reduction in insolvency case administration fees of 2.5% compared to last year.

At the same time as insolvency case numbers have fallen, the average value of assets in bankruptcy estates has also fallen, making the insolvency case administration fee more difficult to recover and putting upward pressure on the service's bad debt position. In response to this, in 2011-12 the service, working with BIS, will review how it raises and collects the case administration fee and whether it is possible to move to a more effective and lower-risk fee regime which is fair to those affected, relying less on internal cross-subsidy and leading to lower fees overall.

Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and the service will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest. Since 2009 the service has undertaken a stakeholder satisfaction survey of the level of confidence in its enforcement regime, achieving an overall confidence level of 68% and 64% in the two surveys to date. I have asked the service to explore what drives this confidence level so as to facilitate work towards a return to a 68% confidence level during 2011-12. I have also set a timeliness target in relation to the instigation of disqualification proceedings against company directors in appropriate cases.

I have set the service targets in relation to the timeliness of releasing reports to creditors in insolvency cases, and of processing claims for redundancy payments. I have also asked the service to at least maintain the overall satisfaction levels of its principal customers and users.

The corporate plan will be available from today, 5 July 2011, at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/aboutus/CorporatePlan.pdf.

Copies of this document will also be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Insolvency Service Published Targets	*2010-11 Target*	*2011-12 Target*
Customer Focus		
User satisfaction levels as measured through the Agency User Satisfaction Index[1]	90%	90%
Case Administration		
Level of real term reduction in fees for insolvency case administration	2.5%	2.5%
Percentage of reports issued to creditors within eight weeks		
for bankruptcy cases	92%	92%
for company cases	80%	80%
Enforcement		
Stakeholder confidence in the Insolvency Service's enforcement regime	68%	68%
The average time from insolvency order to the instigation of disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases	19 Months	19 Months
Redundancy Payments		
Action redundancy payment claims		
within 3 weeks	78%	80%
within 6 weeks	92%	93%

[1]This is a combined indicator covering bankruptcy and redundancy cases.

In addition to these targets the service is required to meet Government-wide targets relating to replying to correspondence from Members of both Houses of Parliament, and making payments to suppliers, as follows:

Other Targets	*2010-11 Target*	*2011-12 Target*
Reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament within 10 days	100%	100%
Process payments to suppliers within 30 days	100%	100%

The Government have also instructed Departments and agencies to maximise levels of payment of undisputed invoices within eight days.

TREASURY

ECOFIN (12 July 2011)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 12 July 2011. The following items are on the agenda:

Savings Taxation Directive

The savings directive forms part of the EU's "good governance in taxation" agenda, which complements G20 efforts to improve international tax co-operation and reflects latest OECD standards on tax transparency. Depending on the progress of negotiations, the Council may hold a further discussion on amendments to the directive, which seek automatic exchange of tax information with the aim of combating cross-border tax fraud. The UK fully supports the aims of the amending directive, and hopes that the EU can move towards an agreement.

Presentation of the Polish Presidency work programme

The Polish presidency will present its ECOFIN work programme for the second half of 2011.

Follow up to the G20 Deputies meeting in Paris on 8-9 July 2011

Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the main outcomes of the G20 deputies' meeting, which is scheduled to discuss the following issues of interest to ECOFIN: the global economy and framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth, reform of the international monetary system, financial regulation and commodities.

Follow-up to the June European Council on 24 June 2011

Council will discuss the outcomes of the European Council, where leaders concluded the first European semester, and welcomed the near completion of the implementation of the comprehensive package of measures it agreed last March to stimulate growth and to strengthen economic governance. The Government achieved their priorities: assurances that the European financial stability mechanism (the EFSM) would not be used for Greece; language that actions taken as a result of the European Banking Authority's stress tests would be consistent with international standards; and strong language on world trade, Doha, deregulation and the single market.

Bank stress tests

This discussion follows on from the June ECOFIN dinner, and Ministers will hold an exchange of views on the European Banking Authority stress tests, which are due to be published in the first half of July. The focus is likely to be on communicating the results, and how to link the results to the backstops measures put in place by member states to address potential vulnerabilities in their banking systems. The Government believe that it is important to increase confidence in the European banking system through the implementation of coherent and transparent measures to address any vulnerabilities. It is also important to demonstrate the EU's commitment to medium-term reforms, as agreed internationally, by implementing Basel III in full.

11th Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) Ministerial meeting

FEMIP brings together the whole range of services provided by the European Investment Bank to assist the economic development and the integration of the Mediterranean partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Gaza/West Bank, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia). Ministers will discuss FEMIP's three-year operational plan (2011-13) and approve its annual report 2010; trust fund activity report 2005-2010 and the way forward; conclusions and follow-up of the 2011 FEMIP conference on the potential of public/private partnerships; and topics for its conferences in 2012.

Tax Policy

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): I can announce today that the annual rate of the ring fence expenditure supplement (RFES) for the North sea fiscal regime will be increased from 6% to 10%, following discussions with industry initiated at Budget 2011. This provides extra support for investment in the North sea, including in marginal fields that qualify for the current field allowance, and will also support the ongoing considerations on new categories of field allowance.

In the March Budget, as part of a package of measures to help motorists cope with high petrol prices, the Government announced a fair fuel stabiliser that would be funded by higher taxation of the profits from oil and gas companies when oil prices are high. The Government said at that time that they would consider with the oil and gas industry the case for a new category of field that would qualify for field allowance to support investment in marginal fields.

In the course of those discussions with industry, the Government have identified that the ability of a company to benefit fully from the field allowance is dependent on whether a company has sufficient current taxable income against which to off-set expenditure. This is addressed to some extent by the ring fence expenditure supplement, which currently allows companies with insufficient taxable income to uprate losses by 6% for six accounting periods.

The increase to 10% will help ensure existing field allowances work more effectively and equitably to support investment in marginal fields. It also brings RFES in line with the discount rate typically used by the sector.

Increases in the rate of supplement may be made by order. The Government intend to lay the necessary order before the House of Commons in the autumn, with the increase in RFES effective from 1 January 2012.

The OBR will publish the full scorecard costings of this measure over the forecast period at the time of its autumn forecast. Initial estimations are that the change is expected to cost around £50 million a year by the end of the forecast period (2015-16).

The Government will continue to engage with oil and gas companies on the case for new categories of field qualifying for field allowance, and will provide further updates to Parliament in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire and Rescue Control Services (England)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): Today the Government are publishing their response to the consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England announced in my statement to the House of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 22WS. This followed the closure of the FiReControl project in December 2010.

First I would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation—the Department received 61 responses, including from most fire and rescue authorities and services, by the closing date of 8 April. The great majority of those responding to the consultation believed that improved resilience and efficiency—and the enhanced technology needed to support these—were as important today as when FiReControl began in 2004. Most responding also agreed with the Government's preferred approach of achieving these objectives now through encouraging increased collaboration—in a locally determined manner—with some Government support. This approach will deliver efficiency and resilience benefits for fire and rescue authorities in the best way for their area, as well as build national resilience through local solutions.

I am announcing today that the Government are making available £81 million for fire and rescue authorities in England to improve the resilience, efficiency and

technology in their control services. As a guideline, this will provide up to £1.8 million for each authority. Authorities will be invited to submit their plans by 4 November 2011. The plans will be assessed for value for taxpayers' money and resilience improvements.

In addition, a further £1.8 million will be made available to the fire and rescue sector for initiatives likely to deliver co-ordination and resilience improvements across the fire and rescue services, such as the development of common technical and procedural standards.

I am very grateful to the Local Government Group and the Chief Fire Officers' Association for their co-operation in developing this proposal. They have agreed to be part of the oversight process. Today I will be circulating further guidance, together with a copy of the response document, to all chairs of fire and rescue authorities and chief fire officers. A copy of the response document will be available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Homes and Communities Agency Regulation Committee

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I wish to inform Parliament that Communities and Local Government has obtained approval for an advance from the Contingencies Fund to allow the recruitment and appointment of a chair, with support arrangements, and for the recruitment of committee members, for the reformed Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Regulation Committee ahead of Royal Assent of the Localism Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

Bringing forward this expenditure through a Contingencies Fund advance will enable efficiency savings to be achieved and provide significant reductions in public spending.

The HCA's Regulation Committee will focus on the economic regulation of the social housing sector. Economic regulation provides investors with necessary assurance that the sector is properly governed and financially viable.

Parliamentary approval for resources of £14,000 for this new service will be sought in a supplementary estimate for Communities and Local Government. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £14,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health Executive Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): The 2010-11 annual report and accounts for the Animal Health Executive agency was laid before Parliament today.

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 21 June. Stewart Stevenson, Scottish Minister for Environment and Climate Change, also joined the delegation.

At the beginning of the Council, the presidency presented its progress report on the proposal for a directive on control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances ("Seveso III"), which highlighted the key issues that remained for discussion during the Polish presidency, in particular: the scope of the directive, the provisions on public information and the inspections regime. The Council noted the progress report.

Ministers agreed Council conclusions on the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. There was very strong support for the strategy itself, but some debate around whether to endorse the associated targets and actions proposed by the Commission, or to leave these for further discussion. There was general acceptance that the actions needed further discussion, but the Commission and several member states were keen that Council should specifically endorse the targets now, as a means to influence discussions in other fora, such as on the EU budget and CAP reform. Others, notably Denmark and Italy, argued that they should be subject to fuller examination first, to avoid the risk of signing up to something that would not be achieved. I was able to accept language that endorsed the targets, but only if the targets, as well as the actions, took fully into account international agreements. I highlighted the recently published Natural Environment White Paper, the UK National Ecosystem Assessment and the England Biodiversity Strategy. I identified the importance of delivering biodiversity objectives through a reformed CAP. Conclusions were ultimately agreed that endorsed the strategy, considered that the strategy and its targets were a key instrument to enable the EU to reach its overall 2020 target and emphasised the need for further discussion on the actions.

The Council then adopted conclusions on the protection of water resources and integrated sustainable water management in the European Union and beyond. There was an exchange of views on expectations for the upcoming Commission blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources to be produced in 2012. I stressed the importance of the protection of water resources and integrated sustainable water management and the need to put in place measures to conserve and make better use of these resources. The forthcoming Commission "fitness check" provided an opportunity to thoroughly review existing EU water legislation to ensure it was effective and fit for purpose and I highlighted the importance of integration of water issues into other policies, notably agriculture. On the issue of water shortage and drought, I emphasised that the importance of these topics does not mean that further EU legislation in this area is necessarily required, as some member states propose.

Over lunch and into the afternoon session Ministers discussed the conclusions on the Commission's roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State called for these to welcome the important analysis in the roadmap; endorse the cost-effective trajectory it sets out including the milestones for 2020, 2030 and 2040; and set a timetable for the Commission to produce further analysis of the policy changes needed to deliver these reductions. Only one member state refused to note the Commission's finding that a 25% domestic emissions

reduction in 2020 was on this cost effective pathway, and so discussion ended with the adoption of presidency conclusions reflecting the majority view.

A progress report on the proposal for a regulation on the possibility for member states to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory developed into an exchange of views. Those member states which support the proposal strongly endorsed the progress made. The UK and Germany, among others, reiterated our concerns about the impact on the single market and WTO obligations; and the potential negative impact on safe products finding their way to the market. The UK supported proportional and pragmatic regulation on the cultivation of GMOs and while we supported subsidiarity, this should not be at the expense of the single market or the EU WTOs obligations. We encouraged the Commission to ensure the effective operation of the current system.

Under other business France called for an EU management plan for cormorants, the Netherlands for action on nanomaterials, and Denmark spoke on not using credits from industrial gas CDM projects for compliance with the effort sharing decision targets. The incoming Polish presidency outlined its environment priorities: biodiversity; resource efficiency; climate change (adaptation and preparations for the conference in Durban); and, preparations for the UN Rio+20 conference.

Single Payment Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice): Thirtieth June marked the end of the regulatory payment window for payments under the 2010 single payment scheme (SPS.) At that point, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had paid a total of £1.75 billion to some 103,604 claimants. That leaves a total of some 594 claimants to be paid up to a maximum of £25 million. It is likely that further work will reveal that some of these cases are not eligible for payment and most of the remainder cannot be paid at present due to reasons such as probate.

These figures demonstrate that RPA has succeeded in paying over 99% of eligible claimants within the payment window and met the EU benchmark of 95.238% of the total value of payments to be made, so avoiding the prospect of late payment penalties. This is particularly pleasing given the focus this year on ensuring accuracy of payments in order to begin drawing a line under the legacy of IT and data problems that have dogged the agency since the chaotic implementation of SPS in 2005. Significant progress has been made on legacy data correction activity so providing greater confidence for farmers about their subsequent scheme year payments. Nevertheless, I recognise that a significant number of farmers had to wait longer than usual for the payment, which I regret.

I recognise also that there remains much for the agency to do in terms of making payments to both the remaining 2010 claimants, including top ups to those who received an initial hardship payment, and those who are due additional sums for the 2005-09 schemes. The remaining backlog of potential error cases also needs to be reviewed and overpayments notified to claimants and recovered. This significant volume of work will be undertaken alongside processing of 2011 scheme payments.

Over the summer, the RPA chief executive, Mark Grimshaw, will be developing a strategic plan for the agency with his new executive team. This will include an evidenced-based review of what the payment timetable for SPS 2011 might look like, to be both challenging and realistic. The plan will be put to the RPA oversight board for approval in the autumn and the final version published soon after. More generally, the board will continue to monitor the agency's efforts closely to ensure a line is finally drawn under all the legacy data issues over the coming year.

I will continue to keep the House informed on the agency's progress.

JUSTICE

Interpretation and Translation Services

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Crispin Blunt): Against a background of the need to make economies right across the public sector I announced, in a written ministerial statement on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 46WS that the Government were proposing to make changes to the provision of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector to cut the cost and make more efficient provision while safeguarding quality.

In pursuit of that aim the Ministry of Justice conducted a competitive dialogue procurement process to explore how these services could be delivered more efficiently, before taking a decision on the way forward. That process resulted in a proposed framework agreement with a single supplier, under which justice sector organisations could contract for language services as needed. Having sought and taken account of the views of interested parties the Government have decided that a framework agreement is the best way to meet their objectives.

The Ministry of Justice will contract under the framework on behalf of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service and the National Offender Management Service. Other justice sector organisations, including police forces, have indicated that they intend to sign contracts under the framework agreement as soon as they can. In some cases this will be when pre-existing contracts come to an end.

The framework agreement will deliver significant administrative and financial savings over the current approach. It will do this by introducing market forces into language services provision and providing a single point of contact available to staff at any time of day for the provision of all language services, including interpretation, translation and language services for the deaf and deaf-blind.

Language services will now be booked through various mechanisms including a secure internet portal, telephone or e-mail. This does away with the current time-consuming and inefficient process of making direct telephone contact with each individual interpreter to check their availability for work. A single request will be all that is required, reducing the burden on staff.

Interpreters' details will be held centrally on a new register maintained by the supplier, which will be freely accessible to the justice sector and legal practitioners.

The Government have always been clear however that efficiency cannot be at the expense of quality. Clear quality standards specify the qualifications and experience required for interpreters to work in the justice sector. A strict code of conduct sets out the high standard of professional conduct expected of them. A robust, accessible complaints process has also been designed, with effective sanctions to ensure that breaches of these standards are investigated and dealt with proportionately and properly.

The supplier will be obliged under the framework to increase the pool of appropriately qualified, experienced and security cleared interpreters beyond the current limits, and to collect and monitor detailed management information to allow better planning for future needs. Failure to do so will result in the supplier being financially penalised.

Moving over to the framework agreement will result in a more efficient and effective service for the public which is forecast to result in savings of at least £18 million on the current yearly spending in this area of £60 million. It will ensure, through the various benefits it offers, that the Government continue to be able to provide access to efficient, high-quality language services for those in need, while getting value for money on behalf of the public.

TRANSPORT

Airport Co-ordination (London Olympics)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): As part of the Government's strategy to ensure successful delivery of efficient transport services for the 2012 London Olympic games, I am today announcing the introduction of new measures to limit disruption and delay to all flights using airports in the south-east of England during the expected period of peak demand for air services for the games.

The Airports Slot Allocation (Amendment) Regulations 2011, laid before Parliament today, will come into force on 1 August 2011. They will temporarily amend the existing regulations so as to provide new powers to ensure that during the games period the available air space capacity over the south-east of England will be able to accommodate the maximum possible number of extra flights, while minimising the risk of disruption or delay to existing services. These regulations will cease to have effect on 31 December 2012.

In conjunction with the new regulations, and following two rounds of consultation, on 1 August 2011 the Secretary of State for Transport will designate the airports listed below as temporarily co-ordinated until 15 August 2012, but only in respect of slot allocation during the period of 21 July 2012 to 15 August 2012 inclusive. This period corresponds to the anticipated peak demand for air services for the games.

In the south-east of England, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and London City are already co-ordinated airports. Airports that will additionally be co-ordinated for the Olympics period are: Birmingham airport, Blackbushe airport, Bournemouth airport, Cambridge airport, Chalgrove airport, Coventry airport, Cranfield airport, Damyns Hall aerodrome, Denham aerodrome, Dunsfold aerodrome, Duxford airport, Elstree airport, Fairoaks airport, Farnborough airport, Goodwood aerodrome, Lee-on-Solent airport, Leicester airport, London Biggin Hill airport, London Luton airport, London Oxford airport, London Southend airport, Lydd (London Ashford airport), Manston airport, North Weald airfield, Old Sarum airfield, Peterborough Conington airfield, RAF Northolt, Redhill aerodrome, Rochester airport, Shoreham airport, Southampton airport, Stapleford airport, Sywell aerodrome, Thruxton airport, White Waltham airfield, Wycombe air park.

During this period all flights operating in controlled airspace and intending to use a co-ordinated airport will need to obtain, and operate in accordance with, pre-booked take-off or landing slots. Slots will be allocated by Airport Coordination Ltd, the existing UK slot co-ordinator, in accordance with the relevant EU regulation.

TRANSPORT

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker): I am pleased to announce that the Department is today awarding £155.5 million to support authorities in delivering local economic growth while cutting carbon emissions from transport.

The Department has received 73 bids to tranche one of the local sustainable transport fund from 66 lead authorities. All bids were for small projects requiring less than £5 million funding from DfT. Twelve bids were submitted as "key components" to large projects.

Proposals were assessed against the criteria as published in the "Guidance on the Application Process", which was published on 19 January. Successful proposals were those judged to perform well against the twin objectives of supporting the local economy and facilitating economic development, and of reducing carbon emissions.

If proposals met these initial criteria, they were also scored on their potential to deliver wider social and economic benefits, to improve safety, to bring about improvements to air quality, or to promote increased levels of physical activity.

Proposals were required to demonstrate financial sustainability with benefits enduring beyond the life of the fund, to incorporate a credible delivery plan, and to include a commitment to make a local contribution towards the overall costs.

In line with the published guidance, an assessment of value for money was undertaken. The Department is confident that the overall package of proposals approved in this first round represents high value for money.

I have decided to fund 39 proposals in this round. Thirty-four proposals will be funded in full and a further five proposals will be funded in part. Thirteen proposals are considered to have potential when scored against the fund criteria, but in my view require further work. Their promoters will be invited to improve their offer and resubmit to the Department in February 2012, or to improve their offer in the context of their large project proposal, where this proposal is shortlisted. The full list of decisions is attached.

By the deadline of 6 June, the Department received 19 expressions of interest for larger projects (requesting between £5 million and £50 million funding from DfT). I intend to announce at the end of July the shortlist of those authorities invited to prepare a detailed business case for their proposal. Detailed business cases will be submitted to the Department by December 2011. The Department has received 41 expressions of interest for tranche two small project funding, for submission by February 2012. I intend to announce successful projects in this second round in the early summer of 2012.

I am very pleased that all eligible local authorities across England (with the exception of the Isles of Scilly) have now applied for funding to the local sustainable transport fund, either as a lead bidder, or as a partner authority to a large project. The fund has been well received by local government and I am confident that it will be effective in addressing the two key objectives of supporting growth and cutting carbon.

Projects Approved for Funding

Local Authority	*LSTF Project Name*	*DfT Funding (2011-15) (£m)*
North East		
Darlington	Local Motion	4.076
Durham *	South Durham embracing Local Motion	2.008
Redcar and Cleveland	Get Moving Redcar & Cleveland	1.490
Tyne and Wear ITA	An Active Future for Tyne and Wear (Key Component)	4.904
North West		
Cumbria	Lake District Sustainable Visitor Transport Beacon Area	4.890
Merseytravel	Facilitating Sustainable Access to Employment in Merseyside (Key Component)	4.877
Sefton *	Sefton & West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project	1.550
Transport for Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Commuter Cycle Project (Key Component)	4.938
Yorkshire and The Humber		
South Yorkshire ITA	A sustainable journey to work in South Yorkshire (Key Component)	4.981
West Yorkshire ITA through Metro (West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive)	(1) DITA Connecting the Dales	1.102
	(2) "Getting transport to work"—An initiative to support the sustainable growth of employment in West Yorkshire (Key Component)	4.169
York	Sustainable Transport York—a programme to "reduce carbon emissions, stimulate economic growth through influencing travel behaviour and encouraging modal shift"	4.645
East Midlands		
Leicester	Leicester - Fit for Business	4.418
Nottingham	Nottingham Urban Area LSTF Key Component Bid (Key Component)	4.925
West Midlands		
Birmingham	Bike North Birmingham	4.123
Dudley	Brierley Hill Active Travel Partnership (BHATP)	0.362
Herefordshire	Destination Hereford	4.973
Shropshire	Shropshire Sustainable Transport Package	4.990
Telford and Wrekin *	Telford Future – local action for sustainable growth (Key Component)	3.526
Warwickshire	Stratford-upon-Avon Local Sustainable Transport Project	4.995
Worcestershire	Choose how you move 2	2.815
East of England		
Hertfordshire	BIG HERTS BIG IDEAS (Key Component)	1.990
Luton	Sustainable Luton Improvement Partnership	4.996
Peterborough	TRAVELCHOICE PLUS	5.000
Southend-on-Sea	Smarter, Active and Sustainable Southend	4.816
Suffolk	Lowestoft Local Links	5.000
Thurrock	Thurrock Sustainable Travel Choices	5.000
South East		
Brighton and Hove	Lewes Road Corridor	4.030
Hampshire	Hampshire Sustainable Transport Towns	4.076
Kent *	Growth without Gridlock	2.273
Oxfordshire	The Oxfordshire Arc: Supporting Employment Growth and Accessing Higher Education & Healthcare in Oxford (Key Component)	5.000

Projects Approved for Funding

Local Authority	*LSTF Project Name*	*DfT Funding (2011-15) (£m)*
Reading	Sustainable Access for Reading: Overcoming Barriers & Boundaries	4.902
Southampton	Southampton Sustainable Travel City	3.960
Surrey*	Surrey TravelSMART (Key Component)	3.930
South West		
Bristol (in partnership with Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire)	West of England Key Commuter Routes (Key Component)	5.000
Devon	Breaking the link between economic growth, carbon and congestion	4.941
Plymouth	1) Plymouth Connect 2) ITSO Smart Ticketing throughout All South West England	1) 4.330 2) 2.980
Swindon	SWIFT (Swindon Workplace Initiative for Transport)	4.472

*Partial funding approved.

Projects Invited to Resubmit Through Tranche 2

Local Authority	*LSTF Project Name*
North East	
Middlesbrough Council	Sustainable Middlesbrough
Northumberland County Council	South East Northumberland Sustainable Travel Towns
North West	
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Blackburn with Darwen Connect Programme
East Midlands	
Derby City Council **	Derby Sustainable Travel
Nottinghamshire County Council	Nottinghamshire sustainable market towns
Rutland County Council	Travel 4 Rutland
West Midlands	
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	North Staffordshire Sustainable Transport Package
East of England	
Cambridgeshire County Council	Travel for Cambridgeshire
Central Bedfordshire Council	My Journey: Travel Choices for Central Bedfordshire
Norfolk County Council	Connecting Norfolk to Growth
South East	
West Sussex County Council	West Sussex Sustainable Travel Towns
South West	
Gloucestershire County Council	Cheltenham and Gloucester Sustainable Travel Programme
Somerset County Council	Moving Bridgwater Forward

As a Key Component bidder, Derby will be invited to incorporate their key component package into their Large Project business case if shortlisted. If not shortlisted, Derby will be invited to resubmit to Tranche 2.

Projects Refused Funding

Local Authority	*LSTF Project Name*
North East	
Hartlepool Borough Council	Access Hartlepool
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	Stockton Active Travel
North West	
Blackpool Council	Jump-starting Blackpool's sustainable transport future: -Combating climate change, improving quality of life -Supporting the local economy, growing sustainable tourism
Cumbria County Council	Cumbria Connected
Yorkshire and The Humber	
North Lincolnshire Council	International Gateway Area Wide Travel Plan
East Midlands	
Derbyshire County Council	1) Matlock-Buxton Cycle Ring and Connections 2) Sustainable Transport in North East Derbyshire

Projects Refused Funding

Local Authority	*LSTF Project Name*
Leicester City Council	Bike Club Plus
Northamptonshire County Council	Connecting Northamptonshire
West Midlands	
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	Lets Go Local
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety Scheme (A*STARS)
Wolverhampton City Council	Creating Capacity and Connecting Places
East of England	
Bedford Borough Council	Access to Bedford
Essex County Council	The Essex Integrated County Towns Smarter Choices Programme
Luton Borough Council	SEMLEP Inter-urban Bus Improvements
South East	
Buckinghamshire County Council	1) Smarter Business Travel Solutions 2) Sustainable School Travel Support
Medway Council	Medway gets active!
Milton Keynes Council	Milton Keynes Walking and Cycling Network Improvements, Information Provision and Promotion
South West	
Dorset County Council	School Travel Health Check (STHC)
Borough of Poole	Poole Town Centre and Hamworthy Smarter Choices Package

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 6 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Regional Development Agencies (Transfer of Land and Property Assets)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): The coalition is committed to closing the regional development agencies (RDAs) and facilitating the delivery of economic development at the local level through supporting the establishment of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and the existing role of local authorities in fostering and sustaining growth.

In the 12 years they have existed the RDAs have undertaken the acquisition, development and sale of a range of land and property assets for the purposes of providing economic development to local communities, assistance in deprived areas, and regeneration to encourage growth and new business. However, this model is no longer affordable in the current economic climate and we need to agree a future for these assets that is affordable while enabling them to be developed in a way that is responsive to local needs.

In preparation for closure, each of the eight RDAs (outside London) has developed a plan for their assets and liabilities. The National Transition Board, chaired by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and involving the RDAs, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), HM Treasury and others, has considered these plans. In relation to land and property assets, on 14 April I confirmed my agreement to:

- Disposal of sites that are market ready, where the economic development and regeneration objectives have been achieved;
- Market disposal of sites to local authorities who want to acquire assets;
- Retention within central Government of key national land assets including those where technology and innovation centres (TICs) are located;
- Transfer of the RDA coalfield sites to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

I am confirming today the Government's intention to transfer the majority of the RDA land and property portfolio, into a "stewardship" arrangement through which local partners, including local authorities, businesses, LEPs and others, will be able to influence their development and ensure they are developed in a way which maximises economic outcomes for the area. Most of these sites are not ready for market sale and in the majority of cases require further investment to deliver economic benefits. To achieve delivery of this we intend to transfer title to these assets to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which will be responsible and accountable for managing the portfolio. Subject to completion of the necessary detailed work and arrangements the transfer is currently planned to take place on 19 September 2011.

The HCA will use its expertise in land and property management to ensure that the assets are fully developed in a way that will help deliver economic growth and regeneration to local areas. Under HCA supervision of the stewardship arrangement HCA will establish local committees to allow local partners such as local authorities, businesses, LEPs and others to influence development of the portfolio. National policy interests will be managed through BIS and DCLG representation on a newly constituted Land and Property Board, and with BIS local membership of the local stewardship committees.

The portfolio includes income-generating assets which will provide investment funds for those assets which need further development. This recycling of receipts should enable the arrangement to be largely self-financing.

DCLG will use its powers under section 51 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 to transfer the assets from the RDAs to HCA. The detail of these transfers is still being agreed. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will approve the final list of assets to be transferred. Details of the transfer order will appear on the DCLG and BIS websites once it has been made. We will set out detail of the assets being put into the stewardship arrangement by LEP area at that point. There will be a transfer of staff from the RDAs to the HCA in accordance with TUPE regulations.

Under a similar but separate stewardship arrangement, BIS will contract HCA to manage its interests in three nationally important technology parks; Ansty Park, Coventry; the Advanced Manufacturing Park, Rotherham; and SPark, Bristol. HCA will manage these in order to continue the development of these land assets which will maximise their impact on economic growth. These sites have been identified as assets of national importance to be retained under the ownership of central Government in order to be developed further to support investments in innovation and technology. Four facilities based on these sites form part of the recently established High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre funded by the Technology Strategy Board.

This transfer is in line with the principles for disposal of assets published on 10 February 2011, which can be viewed at www.bis.gov.uk/rda-assets. I will provide an opportunity for Members of the House to discuss these transfers at a meeting early in the autumn, once the local details of the transfers have been established.

TREASURY

Planned Tax Consultations

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): Budget 2011 announced a number of tax policy changes and longer-term tax reforms that will be subject to consultation. These are summarised in the tax consultation tracker, which is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/tax_updates.htm.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and HM Treasury have today published the following consultation document:

Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCD)—A consultation on a scheme to provide further support for seed investment, simplification of the enterprise investment scheme (EIS) rules by removing

some restrictions on qualifying shares and types of investor and refocusing both EIS and Venture Capital Trusts (VCTs) to ensure they are targeted at genuine risk capital investments.

The following consultation document will be published on 7 July:

Modernising Powers, Deterrents and Safeguards: Bringing HMRC's information powers into line with international standards for tax information exchange—A consultation on proposals to bring the UK's information gathering powers fully into line with international standards set by the OECD.

Updates to dates for some consultations planned for July have been made to the tax consultation tracker.

DEFENCE

People, Pay and Pensions Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Andrew Robathan): With effect from today, the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) will cease to have the status of executive agency of the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) was formed in April 2006 to bring together civilian pay, pension and human resource (HR) services. The PPPA subsumed the Pay and Personnel Agency (PPA) and became the single provider of all corporate civilian personnel services to the MOD.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, the intention to establish the new Defence Business Services (DBS) organisation, bringing together the delivery of a range of corporate service functions to support all areas of the Department from one organisation. The DBS stood up on 1 July 2011 and the civilian HR function of the DBS provided by the PPPA has been renamed as DBS Civilian HR.

This change in operating status will have no impact on PPPA's customers and will deliver efficiencies and wider savings to Government, in particular the costs incurred in auditing the agency's annual report and accounts.

EDUCATION

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Minister of State, Department for Education (Sarah Teather): The importance of the foundation years—as a foundation for life and for future attainment and success—cannot be over estimated. Children's personal, social and emotional development, physical development and communication and language are of paramount importance. Without a strong start in these three prime areas, children will struggle as they develop in life, with friends and in school. It is vital we have the right framework to support high-quality early years education and development.

The early years foundation stage sets the standards for the whole of the diverse early years sector, from birth to five. Reform of the EYFS is one important element of our wider approach to supporting families in the foundation years, which we will shortly be setting out in full, in a publication jointly developed with the Department of Health.

On 30 March Dame Clare Tickell published her independent review of the early years foundation stage, informed by the latest evidence about how children learn and develop, and the views of parents and carers, practitioners, academics and other experts. The Government welcomed her report, and the revised framework, on which we are today beginning consultation, responds to many of Dame Clare's recommendations. The new framework makes a number of significant improvements:

- Reducing bureaucracy and paper work for professionals, simplifying the statutory assessment of children's development at age five;
- Simplifying the learning and development requirements, reducing the number of early learning goals from 69 to 17;
- Stronger emphasis on the three prime areas which are most essential for children's healthy development—personal, social and emotional development, physical development and communication and language (with four specific areas in which the prime areas are applied—including literacy and mathematics);
- A new summary report for parents on their child's development between the ages of 24 and 36 months, linking with the healthy child review carried out by health visitors, so that children get any additional support they need before they start school; and
- Strengthening partnerships between professionals and parents, ensuring that the new framework uses clear language.

Consultation on the early years foundation stage will run until 30 September. The aim is to have the new framework in place from September 2012.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Horn of Africa

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): The horn of Africa is currently experiencing a major humanitarian crisis: 10 million people are in need of emergency relief and the situation is likely to get worse, in places, before it improves when the next rains come. This is the horn of Africa's most severe drought since 1995. In some areas, 2010-11 has been the driest period in 60 years, and soaring local and global food and fuel prices have made the situation worse. The ongoing conflict and insecurity in Somalia in particular is exacerbating the problem and driving over 10,000 people a week to flee into neighbouring Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are the worst hit.

In the long term, people in the horn of Africa desperately need food security. The UK is a world leader in supporting countries to become more resilient to drought and famine, and has been working in the region for many years. Thanks to UK support, 7.8 million people in Ethiopia have access to cash and food in exchange for work through the productive safety net programme. DFID funding is also helping create 60,000 new jobs that are not dependant on rain-fed agriculture. A further 60,000 people are assisted through a "safety net" programme for the poorest households in Kenya.

These programmes that build long-term resilience are having an impact. In 1992, 71% of the population of Ethiopia were chronically malnourished (out of 53 million). Today, only 46% of a total population of 80 million are

malnourished, so tens of millions more Ethiopians are able to feed themselves throughout the year. Those benefiting from UK-supported programmes have proved less vulnerable to the current drought. But long-term resilience takes many years to build up, and emergency relief is needed now to respond to the crisis before our eyes, and to make sure that the significant development gains of recent years are not eroded.

On 3 July the UK Government announced significant funding for the World Food Programme to help feed 1.3 million Ethiopians for three months and to help 329,000 malnourished children and pregnant women. Our commitment will allow the WFP to access food from the Government of Ethiopia's emergency food reserve now, while also starting procurement to replenish the reserve in time to meet shortfalls expected during the peak period of need (September to November).

The UK has also provided strong support for Kenya and for Somalia in the last financial year, funding emergency nutrition, health, water and sanitation and livelihood support activities through UN agencies. Red Cross and non-governmental organisations. We are rapidly looking at what additional support the UK should give in Somalia and Kenya.

But other countries must also do more. We are vigorously pressing the rest of the international community and Governments in the region to join us in stepping up and taking action to prevent this disaster becoming a catastrophe. Intervening now is more cost-effective than waiting for the situation to get worse. I am in close touch with Baroness Amos, UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, who I met on Tuesday 5 July to discuss how to galvanise a bigger and more effective response.

JUSTICE

Detainee Inquiry

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government and the detainee inquiry have agreed the terms of reference and protocol for the inquiry's work, which are being published today on the inquiry's website at www.detaineeinquiry.org.uk, along with some frequently asked questions and answers about the inquiry and its preparatory phase to date.

As the Prime Minister said in announcing the detainee inquiry on 6 July 2010, the purpose of this inquiry is to examine whether, and if so to what extent, the UK Government and their intelligence agencies were involved in improper treatment, or rendition, of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations overseas, or were aware of improper treatment, or rendition, of detainees held by other countries in counter-terrorism operations in which the UK was involved. The primary focus is the aftermath of the attacks of 11 September 2001 and particularly cases involving the detention at Guantanamo Bay of UK nationals and former lawful UK residents.

The inquiry will also consider the evolution of the Government's response to developing knowledge of the changing practices of other countries towards detainees in counter-terrorism operations in this period. This will include how the response was implemented in Departments and the security and intelligence agencies. The Prime Minister has asked the inquiry to report to him within one year of commencing. The inquiry will identify any lessons to be learned and make recommendations for the future, to which the Government have undertaken to publish a formal response.

The Government hope that the inquiry will be able to start as soon as it is possible to do so. However, as the Prime Minister made clear in his public letter of 6 July 2010 to the right hon. Sir Peter Gibson, the inquiry chair, this depends on the end of related criminal processes, the timing of which is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Government are grateful to the inquiry for the important preparatory work it has done to date and which it will continue to do. The inquiry is a vital part of the set of measures announced by the Prime Minister that aim to draw a firm line under the serious questions that have been raised about the United Kingdom's actions. We want to understand properly what happened and to learn any necessary lessons. We look forward to the detainee inquiry being able to get under way formally in due course and will make a further statement to the House when in a position to do so.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 7 July 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Enterprise Partnerships

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I, together with the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, Minister with responsibility for decentralisation, the right hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells, (Greg Clark), would like to inform the House that today we have written to the proposed Dorset local enterprise partnership inviting it to put in place governance arrangements.

Local enterprise partnerships see a real power shift away from central Government and quangos and towards local communities and the local businesses who really understand the barriers to growth in their areas. This announcement brings the total number of partnerships so far invited to put their governance arrangements in place to 36. Taken together these represent 2 million or 97% of all businesses (active enterprises) in England, 22 million employees (employee jobs figures) or 97% of all employees in England and; a population of 50 million or 97% of England's population. We will continue to work with other areas with a view to establishing further local enterprise partnerships across England.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social Housing Regulator

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I am today announcing the publication of a consultation on draft directions to be issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to the social housing regulator. Alongside the statutory provisions contained in the Localism Bill, the proposed changes to regulation outlined in this consultation will help deliver the Government's package of reforms to make the system of social housing fairer and to reverse the consensus that had developed that allowed waiting lists to grow to record levels. This forms part of an overall shake-up of social housing that will also see the delivery of up to 150,000 new affordable homes over the next four years. These reforms will give social landlords and local authorities the flexibility to make the best use of social housing in a way which best meets the needs of their local area.

The directions consultation can be found at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/consultations

Community Budgets

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Hanham, has made the following written ministerial statement:

I have today, with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, written to local authority leaders setting out the next steps for community budgets. I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House. The letter sets out our intention to roll out community budgets for families with multiple problems across England and explore how a community budget based on all funding for local public services in a local area, including giving neighbourhoods more influence, can be developed.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Croatian EU Accession

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): On 30 June Croatia's EU accession negotiations were provisionally closed at an intergovernmental conference on accession of Croatia to the EU. EU common positions on the relevant negotiating chapters will be formally adopted at a Ministerial Council in July. I expect Croatia's accession treaty to be signed by the end of 2011. The Government will then introduce the treaty for ratification by Parliament.

I welcome this important step. It represents the achievement of an historic goal for Croatia, which together with its commitment to continued reform shows the way for other countries of the western Balkans in pursuing their European future.

Croatia's EU accession negotiations closed at an intergovernmental accession conference on 30 June. This has been widely covered in the press. It is likely that the ECOFIN on 12 July will formally adopt (without discussion) the last four common positions agreeing to close chapters 8 (Competition), 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights), 33 (Financial and Budgetary Provisions) and 35 (Other Issues). A written ministerial statement (WMS) would inform Parliament of closure on 30 June, and would alert them to its future involvement during the ratification process.

HOME DEPARTMENT

G6 Meeting (Madrid, 30 June 2011)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The informal G6 group of Ministers of the Interior from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Poland and the UK held their most recent meeting in Madrid, Spain on 30 June under the Spanish presidency of the group. The meeting was chaired by the Spanish Minister for the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba.

The meeting was divided into two working sessions which were attended by the G6 Ministers of the Interior. Germany and Italy were represented at ambassadorial and junior Minister level respectively. Additional guests included the US Deputy Attorney-General, James Cole; the US Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano; European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, and the EU Counter-terrorism Co-ordinator, Gilles de Kerchove.

The first working session considered the transnational threats of Africa's Sahel region, including the strengthening of terrorist groups, notably al-Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM), and drugs, arms and people trafficking. Delegates agreed on the significance and nature of the threat and the security implications for the EU and the US, and recognised the importance of co-ordinated international

action and increased capacity building in the countries of the region. There was wide concern about the negative impact of recent upheaval in north Africa and, above all, the conflict in Libya. The Home Secretary also underlined that the payment of kidnap ransoms was against international law and served to bolster terrorist and criminal groups. It was agreed that the election of the new President in Niger and the improvement in relations between countries in the region, notably between Algeria and Mali, was encouraging. There was seen to be a window of opportunity to put the EU Sahel strategy into action and to improve dialogue with the UN and the African Union.

The second session focused on the recovery of criminal assets. Ministers discussed both improvements in and ongoing difficulties associated with recovering the proceeds of crime. The Home Secretary outlined some of the UK's successes in this area, announcing that it had impacted on over £1 billion of criminal assets in 2010 and that the National Crime Agency (to be launched in 2013) would play a key role in tackling money laundering and recovering the proceeds of crime through its economic crime command. The US underlined the importance of keeping legislative frameworks and processes up to date with ever changing money laundering methods. Delegates agreed that greater international co-operation and better use of the tools and powers available in the pursuit of criminal profits were essential, but that secure channels had to be used for the exchange of sensitive information.

In addition to the two plenary sessions, the Poles presented their justice and home affairs priorities for their EU presidency and the French presented plans for their G6 presidency, both of which would commence the following day (1 July). The Home Secretary also held separate bilateral meetings with the other heads of delegation to discuss a range of issues including extradition, north Africa, asylum, migration, counter-terrorism, aviation security, passenger name records (PNR) and the data retention directive.

The next meeting of the G6 is expected to be held in France in November or December.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report and Accounts 2010-11

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): I have today published and laid before Parliament the Department for International Development annual report for 2010-11 and accounts.

The report covers DFID's activities in 2010-11 in line with the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act 2006 and includes a full set of accounts for 2010-11. The report has been placed in the Libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office. It is also available online on DFID's website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

TRANSPORT

City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport is today launching a consultation on the proposal to remove its objection to lifting a grant condition which precludes the use of the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal for "turnaround" operations—that is, the beginning and/or end of a cruise voyage.

This condition, which limits use of the terminal to port of call visits only, was originally imposed on the grant for the terminal, which opened in 2007, by the Northwest Development Agency because of concerns expressed by the Department about potentially unfair competition with other cruise terminals which have not received such public subsidy.

The Peel Ports terminal at Langton Dock in Liverpool may currently be used for turnaround operations, but it is argued that it is an unattractive prospect—both aesthetically and operationally—and has already lost traffic as a result.

Liverpool city council is proposing to make a partial repayment of the grant, staged over 15 years, amounting to approximately £5.3 million, in return for lifting the turnaround prohibition. This amount is abated from the original grant funding to take account of the time that the terminal will have operated with the restriction, and the fact that port of call visits will continue to deliver the benefits for which the grant was originally made.

It will be for Liverpool city council to satisfy the European Commission, if necessary, that having regard to the continuing regional benefits from overall operations at the terminal, no parallel repayment of European funding is required.

I consider that the repayment proposal by Liverpool city council can be justified taking into account the prospective regeneration and other benefits to the Merseyside area and, on this basis, I am consulting on the possibility of removing the objection. I am inviting comments by 15 September and will then consider responses carefully before arriving at a final decision.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Support for Very Long-term Claimants

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Government are committed to delivering a radical overhaul of the welfare system to ensure that the benefits and tax credits systems is fairer and simpler and is more able to combat worklessness and poverty.

We are also making good progress to deliver on our commitment to reform the package of employment support which will ensure that benefit claimants have access to effective and high-quality support and that we deliver programmes which offer the taxpayer better value for money and also help move more people into work.

Work is well under way to introduce universal credit from 2013 and we have also recently launched the Work programme, the biggest single payment-by-results employment programme the United Kingdom has ever seen.

To ensure that we continue to build on these achievements, my Department will be exploring what further support could be used to help those claimants who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for long periods of time and who have been unable to find employment.

To help us gain a better understanding of what type of support could be most effective, we intend to run a small-scale trial to test whether with an increased level of support and opportunities to gain work experience, claimants have greater success in finding and staying in employment.

The trial will commence later this year across four Jobcentre Plus districts (Derbyshire; Lincolnshire, Rutland and Nottinghamshire; East Anglia; and Leicestershire and Northamptonshire) and will run for approximately nine months.

The evaluation of these trials, coupled with evidence from other programmes, will enable us to develop a better understanding of how best we can support the very long-term unemployed in the future.

Petition

Monday 20 June 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dolphins (Japan)

The Petition of residents of Workington,

Declares that the petitioners believe that there is a need to raise awareness both nationally and internationally about the slaughter of thousands of dolphins each year in the waters around Japan; notes that it is estimated that some 23,000 dolphins are slaughtered each year in the area of Taijii; further declares that the petitioners believe that there is a need to raise awareness for the majority of Japanese citizens, who are unaware that this is going on in their country; and notes that the petitioners believe that the dolphin meat which is highly contaminated is being distributed to an unaware Japanese public protected by a Government that knows the dangers of this practice and the risks to health it poses.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to raise awareness of the slaughter of dolphins and urges the Foreign Secretary to call on the Japanese Government to prevent the distribution of contaminated dolphin meat.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tony Cunningham, Official Report,* 15 September 2010; Vol. 515, c. 970.]

[P000860]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The UK Government strongly oppose the hunting of all whales, dolphins and porpoises other than some limited whaling by indigenous people to meet defined subsistence need. The UK regularly raises its concern at both European and International level over the dolphin hunts in Japan. We continue to call on Japan to halt its needless and unsustainable slaughter of these animals and are deeply disappointed that Japan continues to carry out these large-scale hunts, despite widespread international opposition.

The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) who is responsible for marine and natural environment, wrote to his Japanese counterpart in July 2010 to express the UK public's concern and Government officials have met with the Japanese Government to highlight the UK's opposition to the hunting of dolphins.

Dolphin meat has been reported to be highly contaminated with toxic chemicals such as mercury, methyl mercury and PCBs. At the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission, we urged whaling nations to take note of the consequences of contamination for the animals themselves and also for the consumers. We called for more nations to inform consumers about the associated health risks of contaminated meat.

The UK remains fundamentally opposed to the killing of dolphins in Japan and will continue to make it known at every appropriate opportunity, including at this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission in July.

Petition

Tuesday 21 June 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

St George's Day (Public Holiday)

The Petition of residents of the Erewash constituency and others,

Declares that England is one of very few countries in the world that does not have a public holiday to celebrate its national day; notes that St Patrick's Day is a bank holiday in Northern Ireland, and that St Andrew's Day is a voluntary public holiday in Scotland; and further declares that everyone who is part of England should be able to celebrate its traditions, its history, its heritage and the English way of life with a public holiday on St George's Day.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to bring forward proposals to make St George's Day a public holiday in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jessica Lee, Official Report,* 10 May 2011; Vol. 527, c. 1135 .]

[P000920]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The Government regularly receive requests for additional bank and public holidays to celebrate a variety of occasions. However, given that in recent years the annual leave entitlement has increased for many workers, it does not seem to us to be sensible to create another permanent bank holiday in a time of recession. While an additional bank holiday may benefit some sectors, the cost to the economy of an additional bank holiday remains considerable, with estimates varying between £3 billion and £6 billion.

Although the current pattern of holidays is well established, in order to come to a full understanding as to whether the current arrangements are best for the country, the Department for Culture Media and Sport announced in the recent tourism strategy that they would carry out a pre-consultation on the issue.

The pre-consultation ended on 9 June and examined a range of options, including the possible movement of the May day bank holiday to St George's day in England and St David's day in Wales. Interested parties were encouraged to submit their representations on this matter to ensure all relevant opinions were available during this process. Responses are being assimilated and results are expected later this summer.

Petitions

Monday 27 June 2011

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Box Provision (Nelson, Lancashire)

The Petition of residents of Nelson, Lancashire, and others,

Declares that there is a need for a post box outside the main Post Office in Nelson.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to encourage Royal Mail to take all possible steps to ensure that a post box is provided outside the main Post Office in Nelson.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Stephenson, Official Report,* 8 June 2011; Vol. 529, c. 245.]

[P000924]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills:

The provision and location of Royal Mail post boxes is an operational matter for Royal Mail and is the direct responsibility of the company. The Government, as shareholder, do not play a role in operational matters for the company and cannot intervene is such matters.

Requests in relation to this issue should be raised direct with the company.

It may be useful for you to be aware that in considering the provision of post boxes, Royal Mail takes into account a range of factors including the number and location of existing post boxes in the area. I understand that there is already a post box in the area, which is sited 115 metres away from the Post office. Customers can also post inside the Post Office and at Royal Mail's local delivery office, which is also in the vicinity.

JUSTICE

Industrial Compensation (Stanley Embling)

The Petition of Stanley Embling, a citizen of the UK from Scunthorpe,

Declares that the Petitioner has tried everything in his powers as a former employee of British Steel to obtain compensation for an industrial accident, while on duty; that the Petitioner has suffered from negligence by his employer and their denial of fair hearings for industrial compensation, and that this included intimidation, deception by management, with coercion into retirement; notes that the Petitioner believes that his GMB Union has conspired to defraud him of what was owed to him and many other employees and that, in his attempts to get justice and compensation, he experienced unprofessional conduct and misfeasance by solicitors, the Law Society, the Police, two MPs and HM Court Services; that the Legal Aid Commissioner, the Solicitors' Regulatory Authority, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, the Humberside Police, the Serious Fraud Office and the Metropolitan Police have either refused or failed to investigate the white collar crimes against the Petitioner; and notes that a one-page summary detailing names of solicitors and MPs is publicised on the website of Victims Unite.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to compensate the Petitioner in this case.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Presented by Nic Dakin, Official Report,* 29 March 2011; Vol. 526, c. 2P .]

[P000913]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government are not in a position to comment on or intervene in cases which are or have been the subject of litigation. In general terms, for a negligence claim to succeed the injured person (the claimant) must show that the defendant had a duty to take reasonable care towards him or her, and that as a result of a breach of that duty, he or she has suffered the injury. The claimant must also show that the type of loss or injury for which damages are being claimed was a foreseeable result of the breach of the duty. The determination of liability in individual cases is a matter for the courts, having due regard to all the circumstances of the case and the actions and standards that it is reasonable to expect from each of the parties involved. It is not for the Government to compensate individuals in cases where they have been unable to secure compensation through the courts.

The legal profession is self-regulating and independent of Government. The day-to-day responsibility for regulating lawyers lies with the relevant approved regulator. The Law Society, through its regulatory arm, the Solicitors Regulation Authority, is responsible for the regulation and discipline of solicitors. Approved regulators are overseen in the discharging of their regulatory duties by an independent oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board (LSB). Complaints about solicitors are dealt with by the Office of Legal Complaints under its Ombudsman Scheme, which is also independent of Government and the legal profession.

Petition

Tuesday 5 July 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The Petition of members of the British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA),

Declares that the petitioners believe that the Financial Services Authority (FSA) should urgently accelerate its consultation on the fundamental review of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), to ensure that new rules are in place for April 2012 so that general insurance brokers do not see further disproportionate levy increases; and further declares that the 3,500 full time "insurance brokers" should have separation from the other "secondary sellers" in the insurance intermediary sub-class.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to accelerate the FSA's review of the FSCS consultation with immediate effect.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jonathan Evans, Official Report,* 13 June 2011; Vol. 529, c. 609.]

[P000927]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury:

The Government thank the members of the British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) for their petition on the funding structure of Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the funding arrangements for the FSCS, and consulted with the industry before introducing the current funding rules in 2008. These rules specify the levies that may be collected from each class of firm and how levies should be split between individual firms within each class of related authorised persons. The FSCS is then responsible for setting levies on firms within these rules.

The Government recognise the need for businesses to have certainty with regards to their regulatory obligations to enable them to plan effectively. However, the Treasury has strictly limited powers in relation to the FSA. In particular, the Treasury does not have the power of direction over the FSA and cannot intervene in its day-to-day activities, including with regards to the funding of the FSCS or the timing of their review.

The ongoing debate in Europe on compensation schemes has led the FSA to postpone the public consultation phase of their review until the outcome of this debate is known. Once the European debate is clearer, the FSA will proceed to public consultation where they will take all relevant views into account, including the concerns of BIBA members.

Petition

Wednesday 6 July 2011

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Cheshunt Urgent Care Centre (Hertfordshire)

The Petition of residents of Broxbourne Borough and surrounding areas,

Declares that the decision taken by Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust to close Cheshunt Urgent Care Centre (U.C.C.) fails to recognise the importance and value of the U.C.C. to the local community.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to use his offices to intervene in the matter to require the PCT to revisit its decision in regards to the U.C.C., and keep GP-led services operating at the site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Mr Charles Walker, Official Report,* 20 June 2011; Vol. 530, c. 134.]

[P000930]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The matters raised in the petition are local matters and my Department will bring it to the attention of East of England Strategic Health Authority.

Petition

Thursday 7 July 2011

OBSERVATIONS

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Pleck Library (Walsall)

The Petition of users of Pleck Library, Walsall,

Declares that the Petitioners wish to prevent the closure of Pleck library.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to protect Pleck library for the future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Valerie Vaz, Official Report,* 27 April 2011; Vol. 527, c. 313 .]

[P000916]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport:

The Government are committed to championing the public library service. Libraries can and do contribute to a range of local and national government priorities—for example, they can help people access a whole range of educational materials, find employment or get online support for issues such as health and well-being, and work with parents, schools and colleges to support education and learning agendas. All these connections can have positive benefits for communities.

Decisions about Pleck library, both before and after consultation with local communities, are a matter for Walsall Council in the first instance who have a duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service.

The Secretary of State, has a duty under the Act to superintend the delivery of library services by local authorities. Developments concerning library services across England are being carefully monitored by officials. I recently wrote to every local authority in England to remind them of their responsibility under the Act to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service. In that letter I repeated the key findings from the report of the inquiry that was held in 2009 into proposed closures of libraries by Wirral metropolitan borough council: that when re-organising library services it is important that authorities have a strategy, that they have considered the needs of their local communities and that they have consulted local people.

The closure of a library, such as Pleck library, does not of itself signal an automatic breach of the 1964 Act. Sometimes a library authority will close or consider closing a library to ensure a more efficient service across its geographical area overall and this will be based on a local assessment of library needs. To help local councils adapt to the current economic challenge, I launched The Future Libraries Programme in the summer of 2010. This is a joint Museums Libraries and Archive Council (MLA) and Local Government Association Group (LGA) programme which aims to support over 30 participating authorities to explore options that will help them to deliver the front line services communities want and need more efficiently. As it develops, learning from the 10 pilot projects will be shared widely to support non-participating authorities to deliver their services more efficiently too. Further information about the programme is available on the MLA website at:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/the_future_libraries_programme. The MLA is available to support any authority in developing plans for their library service.

We are aware that many local authority library proposals remain subject to consultation with local communities and that the MLA is in contact with many authorities. Consideration by the Secretary of State of whether or not any statutory powers should be used to assess an authority's compliance with the 1964 Act will be made on a case-by-case basis and after careful consideration of all relevant facts and local circumstances.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 20 June 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case; [60328]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60485]

Mr Paterson: My Department introduced no regulations in the period 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011. My Department has not repealed any regulations during this period.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60698]

Mr Paterson: None.

WALES

NHS

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on the effects of the proposed changes to the NHS in England on *(a)* the NHS in Wales and *(b)* cross-border provision of health services; and if she will make a statement. [60091]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have discussed the Health and Social Care Bill with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health. The Wales Office and the Department of Health will continue to work closely with the Welsh Government on the provisions in the Bill impacting on the NHS in Wales. In agreement with the Welsh Government, the coalition Government have renewed the existing cross-border health services protocol for a further year until 31 March 2012. This will allow time for the structure of the new commissioning arrangements in England to emerge more clearly before more detailed consideration is given to cross-border provision of services.

PRIME MINISTER

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr Dodds: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* issues were discussed and *(b)* agreements were reached at the Joint Ministerial Committee held in London on 8 June 2011. [60634]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the communiqué which was released following the Joint Ministerial Committee meeting on Wednesday 8 June 2011. This is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2011/06/joint-ministerial-committee-communique-64530

Members: Correspondence

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the response from the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council to the letter from himself and others of 18 March 2011, entitled Getting Europe Growing; and what reports he has received on the steps taken by the Commission in consequence. [59200]

The Prime Minister: In response to the "Getting Europe Growing" letter of 18 March, I received a supportive letter from the European Council President. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Following the letter of 18 March, the European Council of 24-25 March agreed on the importance of prioritising growth. Its conclusions agreed on the need for robust action at the European Union level to stimulate growth by: strengthening the single market, with an emphasis on services and the digital economy; reducing the overall burden of regulation; and promoting free, fair and open trade with countries outside the EU. Since then, the Commission has brought forward a number of initiatives in the areas we identified as priorities for EU growth. The Government continue to work closely with the Commission and other member states to make progress on this agenda.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Mr Dodds: To ask the Prime Minister if he will give an assessment of the work of the Northern Ireland Assembly following his recent visit and speech in the Assembly chamber. [60633]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the speech I gave to the Northern Ireland Assembly on Thursday 9 June 2011. A copy of the speech can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/06/address-to-northern-ireland-assembly-64604

Royal Irish Regiment: Parades

Mr Dodds: To ask the Prime Minister how many representations he has received on the decision by the Ministry of Defence not to permit a homecoming parade for the Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast. [60630]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 174-75.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the limitation of information which public authorities are required to disclose about animal experiments; and what her policy is on the introduction of any such limitation. [59076]

Lynne Featherstone: A significant amount of information is already published about the use of animals in scientific procedures in publications such as the 'Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain' published annually, on the Home Office website and in scientific papers published by those carrying out the research.

Where relevant, decisions on requests for disclosure of other information are made taking account of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In addition, under section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Home Office Ministers and officials are prohibited from disclosing confidential information relating to the use of animals in scientific procedures other than in the discharge of their functions under the 1986 Act.

Section 24 creates a criminal offence and provides a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment and a fine for unauthorised disclosure of information.

I have received no representations about the application of the Freedom of Information Act to requests for information about animal experiments. Since June 2010 I have received 35 letters from individuals and organisations relating to section 24, the majority seeking its repeal.

As part of a public consultation on the options for transposition of European directive 2010/63/EU, launched on 13 June 2011, I am seeking views on how section 24 might be amended to provide flexibility in responding to requests for information while continuing to protect proprietary rights and confidential information.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to paragraph 4 of page 18 of the coalition agreement, what steps the Government have taken to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. [60447]

Lynne Featherstone: We are currently developing a strategy to deliver the coalition commitment to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific procedures and will announce our plans in due course. We will be looking for genuine reductions which improve animal welfare and will avoid measures which simply drive work abroad to countries where lower standards or less stringent testing guidelines may apply.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Government have *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of beagles in scientific research. [60448]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have not commissioned specific research on the use of beagles in scientific research. Evaluation of the use of beagles in scientific research is undertaken on a case by case basis. In order to be licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, a project must be for one of the "permissible purposes" listed in section 5(3) of the Act. These include: the prevention (whether by the testing of any product or otherwise) or the diagnosis or treatment of disease, ill-health or abnormality, or their effects, in man, animals or plants; the assessment, detection, regulation or modification of physiological conditions in man, animals or plants; and the advancement of knowledge in biological or behavioural sciences. All research using beagles would have had to satisfy one or more of these requirements.

Under the terms of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 dogs, together with some other species, are given special protection and can only be used where animals of no other species are suitable.

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* reviewed any evidence in support of an increase in the breeding of beagles for experimental purposes. [60451]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have not received or reviewed any evidence in support of an increase in the breeding of beagles for experimental purposes.

Asylum: Expenditure

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual cost to the public purse was of *(a)* the Asylum Support System and *(b)* her Department's administration costs associated with asylum in each year since 1997-98. [60577]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The annual costs to the public purse for the Asylum Support System since 1999-2000 are given in Annex A. Figures for 1997-98 and 1998-99 are not available as the UK Border Agency was not responsible for meeting these costs prior to 1999-2000.

It is not possible to provide the cost of administration of the system without incurring disproportionate cost.

Annex A: Historic asylum costs

£ million

Support costs	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Initial Accommodation[1]	—	—	—	107	96	67	37	31	26	19	15	9
Dispersed Accommodation[1]	—	115	439	319	344	315	183	155	181	128	123	100

Annex A: Historic asylum costs

£ million

Support costs	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Cash Support[1]	—	—	—	160	143	129	103	100	99	69	68	56
Asylum Seeker Travel Costs[1]	—	—	—	6	6	4	4	3	5	6	4	4
Local Authorities[3]	537	497	407	296	242	138	69	4	1	—	—	—
DSS/DWP[1]	—	56	89	36	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S4 Costs[2]	—	—	—	—	4	17	59	71	73	91	102	56
UASC[3]	—	82	111	143	161	117	151	144	85	142	151	115
Leaving Care[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	11	20
Sub-total Support Costs	537	750	1,046	1,067	1,011	787	606	508	470	486	474	359
Grants and Other Special Projects[4]	—	23	17	25	24	37	20	16	15	33	40	42
Total Asylum Payments[5]	537	773	1,063	1,092	1,035	824	626	624	485	519	514	402

[1] Pre 2000 Payments were made to DSS/DWP for asylum seekers in receipt of support. Post 2000 new applicants were supported directly by UKBA.
[2] Support to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute end who, face a legitimate barrier to return, can not travel because of a medical condition, or who are judicially reviewing the decision not to grant asylum (ECHR, case law). Also includes support to those who are taking steps to leave and who would otherwise be destitute, but who would not otherwise qualify for support.
[3] Unaccompanied asylum seeking children, are the responsibility of the local authority in whose geographical area they seek help. However, UKBA provides a grant to assist LAs meet the costs of supporting UASCs together with a grant to assist local authorities to meet the costs of supporting previous UASC who turn 18 and are leaving care.
[4] Grants to voluntary sector organisations to support asylum seekers through the application and dispersal. From 2009-10 grants also include Gateway grants to DWP (and some voluntary organisations) for targeted refugee programmes and Integration services provided by voluntary sector to support integration of those granted leave to remain in UK.
[5] All figures based on audited accounts. Figures for 2010-11 are unaudited and subject to change.

Criminal Records: Voluntary Work

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on voluntary sector organisations of the voluntary disclosure of Criminal Records Bureau checks. [60481]

Lynne Featherstone: There are no mandatory requirements for people working with vulnerable groups on behalf of a voluntary organisation to obtain a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) certificate. Volunteers who regularly work with children or vulnerable adults are eligible for an enhanced CRB certificate but it is the volunteer manager's decision whether to request a check, after they have carried out a risk assessment for the role. The Government recognise the important contribution volunteers make to society and CRB checks for volunteers are issued free of charge.

Identity and Passport Service: Aberdeen

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has considered the merits of putting in place additional passport interview services in Aberdeen before the summer holiday period. [59682]

Damian Green: The interview office in Aberdeen formally closed to the public on 11 June 2011. In future, customers in the Aberdeen area will be able to access interviews in Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness.

There is a full-time interview office in Edinburgh and there will be flexible teams operating at Dundee and Inverness for two or three days per week from late July. The interview offices at Dundee and Inverness will remain open to the public until 23 July.

While we recognise that this will mean additional journey times and expense for some customers, only 5% of passport applicants are required to attend an interview and this is a once in a lifetime event. The changes IPS is making are to remove excess capacity from the business.

Incentives

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether bonus payments are made to UK Border Agency staff for performance in respect of cash recovery cases undertaken under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. [60141]

Damian Green: Bonus payments in the UK Border Agency (UKBA) are dependent on staff exceeding performance expectations.

Performance awards are not made to UKBA staff specifically for performance in relation to cash recovery cases undertaken under the provisions of the proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002.

Assessment of performance is typically based on a number of the following criteria:

assessment of objectives—what was delivered and how;

assessment of the skills required for the role;

overall assessment of achievement against the job description, reflecting the level of performance over the whole appraisal year;

innovation—actions or good ideas which improve efficiency or service delivery.

Overseas Workers

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the consultation document on Employment Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers. [60734]

Damian Green: The content of the consultation document was agreed collectively by interested Ministers prior to publication. The UK Border Agency continues to discuss the proposals with other Government Departments.

Police: Bureaucracy

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on proposals to provide greater powers to policy community support officers; and if she will make a statement. [60208]

Nick Herbert: The Government recognise and value the role that police community support officers (PCSOs) play in neighbourhood policing and have committed to supporting neighbourhood policing teams and PCSOs through the dedicated neighbourhood policing fund until 2012-13. After this, it will be for the directly elected police and crime commissioners, together with their chief constables, to determine local staff resourcing and allocation.

PCSOs have 20 standard powers and a range of discretionary additional powers which may be granted by the local chief constable should he or she believe that they are required. There are no current plans to extend these powers.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies for which she is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60196]

Damian Green: The Home Department awarded two contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Scotland in 2006 and 2008, neither of which were in South Lanarkshire or Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency. Both of these contracts expired in 2009.

In recognition of the important contribution all small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) make to the economy, the Home Department has published its plans to meet the Government's commitment to allow SMEs to compete more fairly for governmental contracts on its commercial website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/procurement/

The Department is continuing with further work to evaluate its procurement activity to establish areas of goods and services which can be delivered by SMEs. This evaluation will inform our procurement approach and ensure we maximise opportunities for such enterprises.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of non-registered sex offenders. [60891]

Lynne Featherstone: The data are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Stalking: Crime Prevention

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to give police in England and Wales additional powers to seize electronic evidence from individuals being investigated for stalking or harassment. [59937]

Lynne Featherstone: We are working with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to review the impact of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. We are also working with the police and others to examine the need for additional police powers to enable them to investigate these offences effectively.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by the Government Equalities Office between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate she has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation; [60502]

(2) what regulations the Government Equalities office introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60324]

Lynne Featherstone: This Government are committed to reducing regulatory burdens. Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 the Government Equalities Office repealed the three separate public sector equality duties on race, disability and gender and supporting regulations imposing specific duties for each, with different timescales and reporting requirements. On 5 April 2011 the Government brought into force the new single Equality Duty contained in the Equality Act 2010. This brought together the previous equality duties and extended to cover age, gender reassignment in full, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

On 6 April the Government Equalities Office brought into force the positive action provisions contained in section 159 of the Equality Act 2010. These measures are voluntary and do not impose any regulatory burden.

The following table provides information on the legislation and codes of practice repealed and introduced between 1 March and 31 May 2011.

We estimate replacing the three previous public sector equality duties with the new Equality Duty and the underlying specific duties (which will be laid before Parliament shortly) will result in a net benefit to the public sector of between £4 million and £18 million (mid-point estimate £11 million) in year one, and a net benefit of between £14 million and £25 million (mid-point estimate £19 million) from year two onwards compared to the cost of complying with the three separate duties. Over a 10-year period the net benefit is expected to be in the region of around £110 million to £205 million (net present value terms) compared to the cost of the previous duties.

There are no implementation costs relating to the positive action measures as these are voluntary.

Primary legislation repealed between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011

Regulation	*Repealed*
sections 76A to 76C of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (and section 81 of that Act so far as relating to those sections);	5 April 2011
sections 71 to 71B of, and Schedule 1A to, the Race Relations Act 1976	5 April 2011
sections 17(9), 18 and 19(10) of the Local Government Act 1988	5 April 2011
sections 49A to 49D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995	5 April 2011
section 404 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999	5 April 2011
sections 84 and 85 of the Equality Act 2006	5 April 2011
As a result of the above sections being repealed the following measures in subordinate legislation were revoked:	
the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Order 2006 (SI 2006/2930)	5 April 2011
the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/32)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (General Statutory Duty) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3457)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3458)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Order 2002 (SSI 2002/62)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2003 (SI 2003/3006)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (General Statutory Duty) Order 2003 (SI 2003/3007)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2004 (SI 2004/3125)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (General Statutory Duty) Order 2004 (SI 2004/3127)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (General Statutory Duty) Order 2006 (SI 2006/2470)	5 April 2011
the Race Relations Act 1976 (Statutory Duties) Order 2006 (SI 2006/2471)	5 April 2011
the Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/2966)	5 April 2011
the Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (SSI 2005/565)	5 April 2011
the Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/618)	5 April 2011
the Disability Discrimination (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/641)	5 April 2011

Regulatory measures introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011

Regulation	*Introduced*
section 149 of the Equality Act 2010	5 April 2011
section 159 of the Equality Act 2010—positive action provisions relating to recruitment and promotion	6 April 2011

Codes of practice repealed between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011

Code of practice	*Repealed*
the 1985 code of practice for the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sex and marriage and the promotion of equality of opportunity in employment	6 April 2011
the 2003 Code of Practice on Equal Pay	6 April 2011
the 2004 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Code of Practice on Employment and Occupation	6 April 2011
the 2006 revised Code of Practice on Racial Equality in Employment	6 April 2011
the 2006 Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Code of Practice on Rights of Access: services to the public, public authority functions, private clubs and premises	6 April 2011

Codes of practice introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011

Code of practice	*Introduced*
the Equality Act 2010 Code of Practice Services Public Functions and Associations	6 April 2011
the Equality Act 2010 Code of Practice on Employment	6 April 2011
the Equality Act 2010 Code of Practice Equal Pay	6 April 2011

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent assessment she has made of the effects of the proposed closures of regional offices of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [60768]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is an arm's length body. As an arm's length body, decisions on the closure of any of its office premises are operational ones which it is for the Commission to make.

Government Equalities Office: Manpower

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many staff *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission employ. [59772]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The figures requested are as follows:

(a) The total number of staff employed by Government Equalities Office as at 1 June 2011 was 108.2 full-time equivalents (FTE).

(b) The total number of staff employed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission as at 13 June 2011 was 408 FTE.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the effects of the ending of tax relief on VAT for organ repairs on levels of expenditure from the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next four years. [58447]

John Penrose: The effect of removing eligibility of organ repairs, bells, clocks and pews from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be to return it to its original scope before it was widened to include these items in 2006. We estimate that the overall effect on money claimed under the scheme will be to reduce it closer to the available budget of £12 million. We have not made an individual estimate of the specific impact on organ repairs, but it is worth noting that they took place continuously and successfully before being included in the scheme in 2006, so we do not expect a serious permanent reduction.

Local Broadcasting

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the maintenance of BBC provision of local television and radio. [59770]

Mr Vaizey: There have been no recent discussions with the BBC Trust on the maintenance of the BBC's existing provision of local television and radio.

Olympic Games 2012

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for the future of the Olympic legacy in all parts of the UK after 2012. [60017]

Hugh Robertson: The Government published their plans for the legacy from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in December 2010 focusing on four key areas:

Harnessing the United Kingdom's passion for sport to increase grass roots participation, particularly by young people—and to encourage the whole population to be more physically active;

Exploiting to the full opportunities for economic growth offered by hosting the Games;

Promoting community engagement and achieving participation across all groups in society through the Games; and

Ensuring that the Olympic Park can be developed after the Games as one of the principle drivers of regeneration in east London.

This plan was produced by the UK Government. However the Games' legacy is being driven across the UK by a rich variety of organisations, communities and individuals. These include the Nations and Regions Group established by the Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to ensure UK-wide engagement and to make the most of the opportunities London 2012 brings now, and to maximise the potential benefits that will be realised locally post Games. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 Games.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of the London 2012 Olympics on levels of participation in sport. [60019]

Hugh Robertson: No recent assessment has been made of the potential effect of London 2012 on levels of participation in sport. However, we will be measuring the number of young people taking part in competitive sport through the Taking Part Survey, and Sport England will continue to measure participation in community sport through the Active People Survey. Both 'Places People Play', the Government's sports legacy from London 2012, and the School Games will be evaluated to measure the impact.

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on including all parts of the UK in preparatory events for the London 2012 Olympics. [60020]

Hugh Robertson: The Nations and Regions Group, established by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), works directly with each UK nation and region to help them realise and maximise the benefits from the economic, sporting and cultural opportunities offered by the games.

One of the most significant events taking place before the beginning of the games is the Olympic Torch Relay. The Olympic Flame will travel to within an hour of 95% of people in the UK, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey during the 70-day Olympic Torch Relay. On 18 May LOCOG announced the 66 evening celebrations and six of the island visits and will now proceed with the detailed planning of the route for the morning and afternoons of each day. This is being done in consultation with stakeholders across the UK in every region. The route will be finalised and announced later this year,

LOCOG recently published a booklet on London 2012 which provides a summary of projects and events that have taken place across the UK. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/publications/london-2012-across-the-uk.php

In addition, the London 2012 cultural, educational and sporting projects the Inspire Programme, the Get Set Network and the School Games are inclusive of the whole of the UK.

Tourism

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to help regions increase the size of their tourist economy. [60018]

John Penrose: The Government's plans for promoting the growth of the visitor economy are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

Over the next four years VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme, which will capitalise on the international interest in the recent Royal Wedding, as well as next year's Diamond Jubilee and Olympic and Paralympic Games, and showcase Britain to the world. The programme aims to attract 4 million extra visitors, spending £2 billion in the UK economy, which will support businesses, jobs and growth. The programme is backed by a £100 million marketing fund, match funded by the public and private sectors.

VisitEngland is working closely with local areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is

co-ordinated through the National Strategic Framework for Tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector. VisitEngland is currently working with local areas on a campaign to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation. "The time to be in England" will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, helping to spread the benefits of the games outside London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth. The campaign is the subject of a bid to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

Tourism policy seeks to help improve the sector's productivity and competitiveness, in particular to address the burden of regulation affecting the industry. The Government's Red Tape Challenge focused on the hospitality sector in May, inviting the industry and the public to identify regulations holding back the industry and stifling growth. Alongside this, the Government are setting up an industry task force, led by senior industry figures, to identify rules, regulations and inspections impeding the sector, and which might be cut, modified or abolished.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of the competitiveness of the UK tourism sector of the recent decision of the Irish Government to reduce the rate of value added tax on services related to tourism to 9%; and if he will make a statement. [60814]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), speaks regularly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on a wide variety of topics. VAT rates in Ireland are a matter for the Irish Government rather than one on which we should comment, but customers choose their holidays on a wide variety of factors including the overall value for money of the various places they are considering visiting, rather than focusing solely on the rate of VAT. The Government's overall policy on tourism was made clear in the Government's Tourism Policy, which was published in March 2011.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60327]

David Mundell: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 the Scotland Office introduced the following regulations:

The Scottish Parliament (Constituency Returning Officers) Order 2011;

The Scottish Parliament (Regional Returning Officers) Order 2011;

The Scottish Parliament (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2011; and

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2011.

There were no implementation costs for these orders.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60486]

David Mundell: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 the Scotland Office revoked the following regulations:

The Scottish Parliament (Constituency Returning Officers) Order 2011;

The Scottish Parliament (Regional Returning Officers) Order 2011; and

The Scottish Parliament (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2011.

Due to the nature of these elections Orders there are no identifiable savings.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60699]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was not responsible for any European directives in force on 1 April 2010, and is not responsible for any that have come into force since 1 April 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Vacancies

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the staff vacancy rate in her Department was in 2010-11; and what vacancy rate has been assumed in her Department's budget for 2011-12. [51389]

Richard Benyon: The vacancy rate in the Department between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 was 342.5 which is 3.5% of the total headcount of DEFRA and its executive agencies.

For 2011-12, the Department manages its budget and resources by reviewing on a monthly and quarterly basis work force forecasts and financial targets to allow the Department to reallocate resources and funding in year to ensure we live within our means and meet our strategic objectives.

Motor Sports: Noise

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on noise nuisance issues relating to motocross sites. [60284]

Richard Benyon: I have not received any representations regarding noise nuisance relating to motocross sites. Any complaints regarding potential noise nuisance should be made to the relevant local authority. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to investigate any complaint of a statutory nuisance made by a person living within their areas. Where a local authority is satisfied of the existence, or of the likely occurrence or recurrence of a statutory nuisance, it must generally serve an abatement notice.

Recycling: Greater London

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to introduce greater co-ordination between waste authorities in London with regard to the recycling policies of their member authorities. [59687]

Richard Benyon: The Government have made clear that it is for individual local authorities to decide on the collection and recycling policies which are most suitable for their customers and fitting for their local circumstances. However, DEFRA supports the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB), including its work with the London Community Resource Network, its recently established subsidiary London Reuse Limited, and London boroughs to look at developing shared collection, storage and distribution facilities that can be accessed by reuse projects across London. LWARB is also assessing the feasibility of developing a London-wide web portal that provides access to reuse and recycling options for both consumers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Rivers

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with water companies on *(a)* their statutory duties to the environment and *(b)* preserving river and stream flows during the summer months. [60131]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* DEFRA has a programme of work to restore sustainable abstraction where abstraction licences granted historically do not adequately protect the environment. Water companies are undertaking investigations as part of their environmental responsibilities where their abstractions may be involved.

The Environment Agency sets conditions on abstraction licences to protect summer river and stream flows.

The Natural Environment White Paper, which was published on 7 June, announced that we intend to develop measures to address unsustainable abstraction more efficiently, and therefore increase protection of river and stream flows in the summer months. We are currently developing these measures to be included in the Water White Paper, which is due to be published by December. As part of this, officials are in discussion with a number of stakeholders, including the water companies.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what evidence the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has received from IPSA to support the statement by the Authority that it saved the public purse £18 million in its first 10 months of operation. [60177]

Mr Charles Walker: Paragraph 9 and Annex A of the Explanatory Note on the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority's 2011-12 draft Estimate, submitted to the Committee by IPSA, state that IPSA have forecast an under-spend of around £30 million against their Estimate, which is about £18 million less than the final year of the previous House of Commons scheme.

The Explanatory Note and other documents relating to the draft Estimate are available on the Committee's website at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/spcomipsa/writev/contents.htm

TRANSPORT

A1: East of England

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure the installation of separated junctions at the main intersections and roundabouts on the A1 between Alconbury and the A1(M) north of Baldock. [60388]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State announced on 26 October 2010 the Department's plans for funding road improvements on the strategic road network for the spending review period, to the end of 2014-15.

Proposals for junction improvements on the A1 between Alconbury and the A1(M) north of Baldock have not been included among the schemes identified, and there are therefore no plans to develop such a proposal at this time.

Bicycles

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responses his Department received to its consultation on electrically-assisted pedal cycles; and whether he plans to issue any regulations as a result of the consultation. [60817]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport received 79 responses to the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EAPC) consultation and the results have been analysed. Regulations pertaining to EAPC are also subject to the current 'Red Tape Challenge', and comments submitted as part of this initiative will also be considered before the Department publishes a statement on next steps.

Bus Services

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum statutory requirement is for the provision of *(a)* evening and *(b)* Sunday bus services in local areas in England. [59515]

Norman Baker: There is no specific statutory requirement for the provision of evening and Sunday bus services in local areas of England.

78% of local bus services are provided on a commercial basis by private operators and the routes and times that they run are a matter for the operator concerned.

There is a duty in the Transport Act 1985:

"to secure the provision of such public passenger transport services as the council considers it appropriate to secure to meet any public transport requirements within the county which would in their view not be met apart from any action taken by them for that purpose..."

It is therefore a decision for local councils to decide what further services, if any, they should be providing.

Bus Services: Fees and Charges

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has powers to require bus companies which cancel routes and services to reduce the price of season tickets. [59516]

Norman Baker: In the deregulated bus market in England outside London, bus fares and routes are a matter for commercial operators of local services, not the Secretary of State. London fares and timetables are a matter for the Mayor. Non-commercial services supported by local transport authorities are a matter for them.

The Department for Transport is considering possible remedies to address the Competition Commission's initial findings from its inquiry into the local bus market that bus fares, tickets and frequencies may be used to deter new entrants from engaging in competition with incumbent operators.

In the meantime, local transport authorities currently have powers to introduce maximum fares under a Quality Partnership Scheme, but not to reduce fares.

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many small and medium-sized bus operators have ceased to trade in 2011 to date. [58261]

Mike Penning: The number of surrendered licences in 2011 by Public Service Vehicle operators[1] is 98. Of these, 96 operators had held licences for 20 vehicles or less. The number of licences surrendered does not necessarily mean operators who have ceased to trade as they may hold licences in other geographical areas.

[1] PSV operators numbers will also include limousine operators, as well as hotel and taxi operators who require a licence to operate a mini-bus.

Bypasses: Lincoln

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress his Department has made on the proposal for the construction of a bypass in Lincoln. [59441]

Norman Baker: This scheme is currently in the Department for Transport's Development Pool of local major transport schemes. We have invited Lincolnshire county council to submit a "best and final funding bid" to the Department by 9 September. We aim to announce decisions in December this year on which schemes have been successful.

East Coast Railway Line: Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings of the outsourcing to locations outside the UK of East Coast Main Line's (i) customer contact centre and associated services, (ii) telesales, (iii) group travel, (iv) assisted travel and business travel, (v) ticket fulfilment, (vi) web support and (vii) customer relations work. [59004]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The outsourcing of services is an operational matter for East Coast. The Department has had no involvement in these decisions.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many households *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Warwickshire and *(c)* in North Warwickshire constituency have received assistance from the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme; and what the total monetary value is of compensation allocated in each case. [59494]

Mr Philip Hammond: The information is as follows:

(a) 38 applications have been accepted nationally. The total value of 34 of these properties, calculated by the sum of formal offers made to applicants, is £19,920,000. HS2 Ltd is currently awaiting valuations on the other four properties that have been accepted.

(b) 11 applications have been accepted from Warwickshire. The total value of nine of these properties, calculated by the sum of formal offers made to applicants, is £5,152,500. HS2 Ltd is currently awaiting valuations on the other two properties that have been accepted in Warwickshire.

(c) Two applications have been accepted from North Warwickshire constituency. One property has been purchased and the other is currently awaiting valuation. I am not able to release the value of the purchased property as this relates to a single application, and constitutes personal data as part of that application which could potentially identify the owner as an EHS applicant. When more than one valuation is available in this area I will be content to provide the sum total.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many agricultural units and commercial properties with a rateable value not exceeding £34,800 have applied for compensation under the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [59514]

Mr Philip Hammond: Applications to the Exceptional Hardship Scheme have been received from:

1 agricultural unit

3 combined residential/agricultural units

3 combined residential/commercial properties with a rateable value not exceeding £34,800.

Invalid Vehicles: Regulation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the results of his Department's consultation on proposed changes to legislation governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. [59452]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The findings from the consultation are currently being considered. I will be making an announcement as soon as practicable.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of used car sales in each year since 2005. [60874]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport estimates that there were 7.65 million transfers of used cars during 2010.

Some of these transfers will not have been through a sale of the vehicle. The transfer may be as a result of a gift, inheritance or the trader registering the car to their business after holding it for longer than three months. Information about what type of transfer took place is not held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) database.

The estimate for 2010 was based on the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) which enables changes in the ownership of a vehicle to be tracked over time. A less accurate method was used to produce a broad estimate for 2009, of 6.44 million transfers, based on matching the registration marks of vehicles. Estimates have not been produced for years prior to 2009, and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the merits of widening the A1(M) between Welwyn and Stevenage; and if he will make a statement. [60752]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 26 October 2010 the Department's plans for funding improvements on the strategic road network for the spending review period, to the end of 2014-15. The Department will continue to work on 18 schemes for potential construction in future spending review periods.

Widening of the A1(M) between Welwyn and Stevenage was not among the schemes identified, and the Department therefore has no plans to examine such a proposal at this time.

Roads: Tolls

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to promote the construction of further toll roads. [54215]

Mike Penning: We are happy to consider proposals for the construction of new roads funded by tolls.

However, we have not received any such proposals, and are not bringing forward any tolled schemes at present.

Rolling Stock

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost of operating *(a)* hybrid and *(b)* electric trains over electrified tracks; [58263]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost of operation and maintenance of *(a)* a hybrid and *(b)* an electric train. [58265]

Mrs Villiers: In the recent appraisal of the Intercity Express Programme, the average cost per mile of maintenance and operations of a bi-mode and electric set were assumed to be as follows:

£

	Maintenance	*Fuel*	*Variable track access charge*
Bi-mode			
When under diesel power	2.74	1.72	1.13
When under electric power	1.78	1.34	[1]—
Electric	1.78	1.32	1.03

[1] Indicates brace.

The costs in the table are based on five-car short sets, and are given at 2009-10 prices.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BRIC Countries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 202W, on the BRIC summit, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's documents relevant to the Emerging Powers Initiative. [60071]

Mr Hague: The Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the National Security Council, which I chair, oversees the Government's collective effort towards elevating our relations with the emerging powers. Papers prepared for the Sub-Committee are confidential.

Diplomatic Service: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 206W, on the Diplomatic Service: internet, how many online followers his Department has of each nationality. [60070]

Mr Hague: It is the social media platforms the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses and not FCO itself which hold information user data. We therefore cannot tell nationality of users, and we cannot make assumptions about their nationality from the geographical

location. Full lists of the major social media presences of embassies and posts around the world can be found on:

www.FCO.gov.uk

As set out in my answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 206W, we have over 300,000 followers in total.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 206W, on the Diplomatic Service: internet, in which countries those embassies and missions which blog in local languages are located. [60072]

Mr Hague: There are currently 56 active bloggers on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) roster, blogging on the FCO website. This figure is liable to constant change as staff move roles within the Department. There are 35 embassies and posts with a blog, and there are blogs currently 'live' on the FCO site in seven different languages: Arabic, Romanian, Ukrainian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Korean and Japanese. A full list of the blogs hosted on the FCO's platform can be found on the FCO website.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the status of *(a)* secular political parties and *(b)* the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. [59530]

Alistair Burt: A new law on the registration of political parties was passed on 28 March. In addition to the existing opposition parties, the Al Wasat Party, the Muslim Brotherhood's new Freedom and Justice Party and another called the Nour party have officially been registered. A number of other new political parties continue to await authorisation of their official registration.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) have pressed the Egyptian authorities to ensure an open and plural election process.

Libya: Diplomatic Relations

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government maintains diplomatic relations with the government of Libya. [60048]

Alistair Burt: We maintain diplomatic relations with the Libyan Government. The Libyan People's Bureau (LPB) in London remains open and has been headed by a Charge d'Affaires following the expulsion of the Libyan ambassador on 30 April. We have used these links to make clear to the regime that it must comply in full with UN Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973, desist from further violence and withdraw military forces to barracks. We have made it clear to the regime that Gaddafi must go. We also use our contacts with the LPB to address issues concerning Libyan citizens resident in the UK. Apart from this we have kept our contacts with the LPB to the very minimum.

Libya: Freezing Orders

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the international community is taking to deprive the Gaddafi government in Libya of access to funds. [56314]

Mr Hague: The UK has taken the lead in international efforts to impose and implement financial sanctions on the Gaddafi regime. We and our EU partners have implemented the sanctions elements of UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973 through EU Regulations 204, 233, 272, 288, 296 and 360, which have steadily extended and updated the range of regime-linked individuals and entities subject to asset freezes. On 11 March 2011 the UN also established a Sanctions Committee to monitor the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1970, chaired by Portugal. We are offering guidance and support to the Sanctions Committee. The targeted sanctions imposed under these UN Resolutions have squeezed the regime financially, making it harder for Colonel Gaddafi and his associates to fuel the war further.

Libya: Overseas Students

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the effects of sanctions on Libya on Libyan students who are studying in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [59631]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* I have not received any representations on the effects of sanctions on Libya on Libyan students who are studying in the UK although Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been made aware of some delays in student payments.

The UN sanctions do not prevent Libyan state-sponsored students from receiving payments. These payments are administered by the Libyan People's Bureau in London. Where the necessary funds are in place but additional authorisation is required because of the sanctions, HM Treasury has issued licences to enable payments to be made. Officials are in regular contact with all concerned to ensure that these payments continue.

Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60095]

Mr Bellingham: The Government do not subscribe to a particular view on when oil production is likely to peak. However, we recognise that there are significant challenges for investment in future oil production and that we have a role to play in working towards enhancing energy supplies, and reducing demand for fossil fuels.

In partnership with other Government Departments, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office works internationally to reduce barriers to investment in the oil sector. Bilaterally and multilaterally, we promote the regulatory norms and business climates that enhance confidence and investment. We also use our network of international posts to promote policies such as increased

energy efficiency, and the removal of fossil fuel subsidies, to reduce demand for oil and transition to the low carbon economy.

Saudi Arabia: Armed forces

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government in Saudi Arabia on the *(a)* presence and *(b)* timetable for withdrawal of Saudi military forces in Bahrain. [58989]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), met the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud, during his visit to the UK on 22 March 2011. Prince Saud confirmed that Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) Peninsula Shield Forces would remain in Bahrain for as long as the Bahraini Government requested their presence. GCC forces had been legitimately invited by the Bahraini Government to protect the country's institutions.

The Secretary of State has not discussed a timetable for withdrawal of the GCC Peninsula Shield Forces from Bahrain with Prince Saud or the Bahraini Government.

Serbia: Kosovo

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on progress in talks between the Governments of Serbia and Kosovo on a final settlement of outstanding disputes; and if he will make a statement. [60047]

Mr Lidington: There have been four meetings of the EU-facilitated Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. The most recent meeting took place on 17-18 May, in Brussels. The Dialogue has so far discussed a number of important practical issues, including registry of civil and cadastral records, freedom of movement, telecommunications and energy.

In forthcoming rounds of the Dialogue, I urge the Governments of Kosovo and Serbia to engage constructively and flexibly with a view to reaching agreements on these and all other relevant issues as soon as possible. With political will on both sides, the Dialogue will build practical co-operation between Kosovo and Serbia that can improve the lives of citizens throughout Kosovo, and move both countries in a more stable manner towards EU accession.

Sri Lanka: Missing Persons

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Government of Sri Lanka, *(b)* the United Nations and *(c)* Commonwealth countries on Commonwealth citizens with Tamil ethnicity who have disappeared in Sri Lanka since the end of the civil war in that country. [60958]

Alistair Burt: We have regularly raised our concern over the whereabouts of civilians unaccounted for since the end of the war and, in particular we have pressed for the release of detainee lists. I raised this issue with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister most recently when we spoke on 14 June. Disappearances have not however been limited to those with Tamil ethnicity—Sinhala journalists and opposition activists have also disappeared. The number of disappearances has fallen since the end of the war, but disappearances continue.

Officials discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with international partners, both within the Commonwealth and more widely on a regular basis. Our high commission in Colombo is also in touch with UN colleagues about protection of civilians by UN agencies.

UN World Conference Against Racism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to withdraw from the UN Durban III anti-racism conference; what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts, *(b)* the US Administration and *(c)* the Government of Israel on this issue; what recent representations he has received (i) supporting and (ii) opposing a withdrawal from the conference; and if he will make a statement; [60656]

(2) what reports he has received of the withdrawal of governmental delegations from the UN Durban III Conference; and if he will make a statement. [60680]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We voted against the resolution at last year's UN General Assembly which established a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in September 2011 to commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The Government recognise that it is common practice for the UN to convene meetings at regular periodic intervals to commemorate the adoption of its various social and human rights-related agendas. For these reasons, we were ready to agree to a limited commemorative event. However, in light of the lengthy and difficult 2009 Durban Review Conference, we felt the proposed size and scope of the 2011 event was inappropriate.

We have not yet taken a final decision on our participation in the 2011 high-level meeting. We will nonetheless work closely with EU and colleagues from other countries in the run-up to the September event to try to ensure that the meeting does not become another platform for the kind of anti-Semitic rhetoric and behaviour that was evident at the 2001 World Conference against Racism and to a lesser extent at the 2009 Durban Review Conference. We will also work to make sure that the meeting addresses all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and that any outcome from the meeting includes a clear statement on the need to combat anti-Semitism as part of wider efforts to tackle racism.

We are aware that the Government of the United States of America have recently announced their decision not to participate in the September 2011 event. Their announcement follows that of the Governments of Canada and Israel. To date, we have not received reports that any other Government have decided against participation.

The Government's participation and representation at the September meeting will remain under review in light of our efforts to achieve our objectives as set out above. We will also engage with interested British non-governmental organisations in reaching our final decision.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60191]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) launched a supplier portal at the beginning of April 2011. The portal provides an electronic platform of easy single point access to allow our all suppliers, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to access opportunities to compete equally for DFID contracts.

DFID actively seeks opportunities to engage with SMEs through participation at events like the British Expertise seminars. These forums are an opportunity for SMEs to gain a greater understanding of DFID business, engage with senior procurement officials and openly discuss DFID procurement policies and procedures to identify further opportunities to improve.

In April 2011, DFID developed and published on our external website a specific action plan to assist SMEs. The document can be accessed on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/Actions-to-Assist-Small-and-Medium-Enterprises/

Within this document DFID commits to clearly stated key actions which we consider will encourage and reduce unnecessary barriers for SMEs to participate in competitive tenders. We are aiming to have all key actions implemented around October 2011.

Developing Countries: Vaccination

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the total amount of funding which would be available to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation programme if other nation states matched his Department's contribution on a per head of population basis. [61060]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The additional UK contribution to GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) represents c$21.5 per head of UK population over five years—this equates to £2.62 per person per year. If all existing sovereign donors to GAVI committed the same contribution per head of population, the total new contribution would be cUS$28 billion.

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will encourage governments of other nations to match his Department's funding of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation programme on a per head of population basis. [61061]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Sovereign donors will make their own choices about how they allocate their aid. We do not match other donor contributions to other organisations on this basis; we exert choice in how we allocate our aid. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) came out very well in our root and branch review of multilateral aid so we know that investing in GAVI offers very good value for money. I and my Cabinet colleagues, including the Prime Minister, have lobbied hard to bring other donors with us in stepping up our contributions to GAVI. Several donors have more than doubled their contributions. Australia has increased its contribution tenfold. Bill Gates has added another $1 billion.

We have brought in new donors over the last year (Korea, Japan, Brazil) and we will continue to encourage others to come on board. Our efforts to date helped GAVI raise $4.3 billion at their pledging conference on June 13. With this they will exceed their ambition of vaccinating more than a quarter of a billion children and saving four million lives. They will expand and accelerate their coverage, immunising more children with more vaccines.

Health Services: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what health programmes in what countries his Department funded in the latest period for which figures are available. [59959]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) projects are published in the DFID Annual Report. The 2009 Report is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/Annual-Report-2009/#contents

In addition, DFID undertook a Health Portfolio Review in 2009 which can be seen at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/News-Stories/2010/Health-portfolio-review-2009

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's officials are working on post-conflict planning for Libya. [60078]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: It is crucial that the international system starts planning early to help the Libyan people stabilise a future peace. The UK is also working closely with a range of partners on post-conflict planning, including NATO, the UN, the EU and the Libya Contact Group.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with Whitehall partners in supporting and planning for post-conflict efforts in Libya. Within DFID there are a range of departments contributing to this work; within the DFID Libya Unit there is a team of five working on stabilisation and transition issues.

There are also seven UK personnel working on post-conflict planning as part of the International Stabilisation Response Team. Stabilisation Response Teams (SRT) provide an integrated and bespoke approach to post-conflict stabilisation, reconstruction and development. The SRT, comprising UK and international staff, travelled to eastern Libya in late May to assess and set out a well coordinated and effective response to the needs of the Libyan people by the international community in co-ordination with the UN.

Maldives

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will include the Maldives in future non-direct grant programmes relating to *(a)* climate change mitigation and *(b)* other issues. [59951]

Mr Duncan: The UK is one of 10 donors contributing to the Scaling up Renewable Energy Programme which has allocated finance to the Maldives. We will consider further support as appropriate.

The Department has recently conducted a full review of bilateral aid. Future bilateral support will be focused on 27 countries. The list excludes the Maldives.

Overseas Aid

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding classified as official development assistance his Department has provided *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* in per capita terms to each country through (i) UK-administered aid including aid paid through the EU and (ii) aid administered by EU aid programmes in the latest period for which figures are available. [59956]

Mr O'Brien: Provisional 2010 official development assistance (ODA) figures, including country breakdowns, have recently been published on the Department for International Development (DFID) external website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

While this country list is not exhaustive, final figures will be reported later in the year in DFID's publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This will be made available in the House Library or online at DFID's external website.

The United Kingdom's attribution of the European Commissions External Assistance budget in 2010-11 is estimated at £954 million. In 2010 DFID's core funding to the European Development Fund was £425 million. The European Union's most recent Annual Report, the Annual Report 2010 on the European Community's Development and External Assistance Policies and their Implementation in 2009, is available in the House Library.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60207]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently hold information relating to contracts awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). To collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

In April 2011, DFID developed and published on our external website, a specific action plan to assist SMEs. The document can be accessed at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Procurement/Actions-to-Assist-Small-and-Medium-Enterprises/

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to adjust the carer's allowance in line with changes to the cost of living; and if he will make a statement. [60445]

Maria Miller: The rate of carer's allowance is increased annually in line with the consumer price index (CPI). The CPI is the official, internationally recognised measure of consumer prices in the United Kingdom, and it is the most recognisable measure of price inflation. The Government have no plans to change these arrangements. The weekly rate for carer's allowance was increased from £53.90 to £55.55 in April 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on increasing the level of the carer's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [60446]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise the importance of carer's allowance in providing an independent source of income and recognition of the important role that carers play in society. We acknowledge carers' concerns on the level of carer's allowance, and over the last few months have had a number of representations on this from Members of Parliament and from groups representing carers, including Carers UK.

The rate of carer's allowance is increased every April in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). The Government keep the level of carer's allowance under review, but carers in lower income households can receive additional help through the income-related benefits, such as income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit. These benefits include a carer premium of £31.00 a week. Carers will also be supported through the universal credit from 2013.

Carers Week

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* promote and *(b)* mark Carers Week; and if he will make a statement. [59047]

Maria Miller: I am proud to support Carers Week 2011. It gives us the opportunity to highlight and celebrate the outstanding contribution that all carers make to their families and their communities, through their tireless devotion of time, energy and efforts to looking after a loved one. The Department for Work and Pensions will be supporting Carers Week in a number of ways:

actively working with advisory and representative groups to ensure that carers, and carers groups, have access to the information they need on benefits and other forms of support the Department can offer;

raising staff awareness of Carers Week to increase understanding of the issues that face carers, and encouraging participation in local activities;

seeking staff feedback on how it can better support them in the challenging role of maintaining employment and care.

In addition to this a number of staff in Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions and Disability Carers Service will be taking part in local Carers Week events.

Departmental Procurement

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will list on Contract Finder the confirmed sub-contracts of its prime contractors. [60953]

Chris Grayling: At this stage DWP are currently in discussions with bidders regarding which elements of their contracts under the Freedom of Information Act can be published. Once agreement has been reached then the contracts including subcontractor details will be published on Contracts Finder website:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/Common/View%20Notice.aspx?site=1000&lang=en&NoticeId=1161

Disability and Carers Service: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will put in place a means to deal with urgent correspondence from hon. Members within the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Disability and Carers Service. [58560]

Maria Miller: For all Members of Parliament urgent correspondence in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service Parliamentary Business Unit is cleared to an agreed target of 90% within 15 days of date of receipt. This target is as set by the Cabinet Office and Department for Work and Pensions Customer Standards Group. The current rate of success in answering correspondence within the 15 day limit is 100%. The address for urgent correspondence is:

Pension, Disability and Carers Service
Parliamentary Business Unit
Room 114
Norcross
Blackpool
FY5 3TA.

A telephone hotline service is also available specifically for Members of Parliament where requests are replied to by phone within 48 hours and the service is available Monday to Friday during the hours of 9 am to 5 pm. The telephone number is 01253 333533.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claimants for disability living allowance there have been *(a)* in total and *(b)* with cancer as a primary condition in each of the last five years. [58622]

Maria Miller: The number of new claims for DLA received during each of the previous five years is:

	DLA claims received
2006-07	430,900
2007-08	448,100
2008-09	472,200
2009-10	483,000
2010-11	441,300

We are unable to answer the hon. Gentleman's specific question regarding the number of new claims for DLA with cancer as a primary condition. This is because our management information system does not go down to the level of detail that would enable us to identify the number of new claimants for disability living allowance (DLA) with cancer as a primary condition.

Source:

DLA claims: Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209 reports— DLA Management Information Statistics.

Employment and Support Allowance

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support he plans to provide to people moving from incapacity benefits onto employment and support allowance and jobseeker's allowance in finding employment. [45045]

Maria Miller: Moving on to more active benefits will give our customers a real opportunity to get back to work. Whether on employment and support allowance (ESA) or jobseeker's allowance (JSA), we will ensure that they receive all the support they need, tailored to their particular circumstances.

Through the groundbreaking Work programme we are giving those in the private and voluntary sector with the best expertise the freedom to design tailor-made back to work support built around the needs of the individual. In return for that freedom to innovate we will pay providers by results and we will incentivise them to focus their resources on our hardest to help customers, including those customers who claim JSA or ESA after reassessment. Following reassessment, most of those who go on to receive ESA will be able to access the Work programme immediately, while those who go on to claim JSA will be able to access the Work programme from three months into their claim, recognising the additional challenges they may face in preparing for and finding work compared with other jobseekers.

We are also modernising the way Jobcentre Plus delivers its services to customers outside of the Work programme. Jobcentre Plus advisers will have the flexibility to assess customers' individual needs and offer the support they see fit, drawing from a flexible menu of provision.

Our mainstream provision will be complemented by specialist disability employment programmes including Work Choice, which will continue to help people with more severe disabilities or complex needs to prepare for work and to undertake supported employment, with the aim of progressing into unsupported employment where possible.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure support is in place for people with degenerative diseases to find work within 12 months following the implementation of his proposals to limit the payment of contributory employment support allowance to one year; and if he will make a statement. [60918]

Chris Grayling: Support to find work will be available for all employment and support allowance (ESA) customers from the outset of their claim, irrespective of their health condition. This support is available through Jobcentre Plus on a voluntary basis until the outcome of the work capability assessment (WCA) is known.

Following the WCA, for most ESA customers placed in the Work Related Activity Group, this support will be mandatory either through Jobcentre Plus or through the Work programme.

The vast majority of ESA customers who want the more intensive support offered by the Work programme will be able to access it as soon as the outcome of the WCA is known. This includes contributory ESA customers who can remain on the programme after their benefit has come to an end, ensuring that they receive all the support they need to help them return to work. The Work programme will place customers in the best possible position to return to work once they are well enough to do so.

Alternatively those with the most severe disabilities may receive support through Work Choice.

Employment and Support Allowance: Mental Health

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with representatives of mental health charities on the potential effects of implementation of changes to employment and support allowance on the mental health of applicants. [58960]

Chris Grayling: The Department values the views of disability groups and we engage in ongoing and helpful dialogue both at ministerial and official level with group representatives. For example, since December 2010, Jobcentre Plus partnership teams have been engaging with customer representative and advisory groups at a local level. My officials have also recently met with MIND, Mencap, National Autistic Society, and the Royal National Institute of Blind People to discuss the work capability assessment.

We have also consulted with a broad range of stakeholders including independent providers of mental health services at various national forums and events. Our customer communications and awareness learning materials for staff have been developed in response to feedback received at these events.

We recognise that attending any medical assessment can be a stressful experience, and these will not be carried out if there is enough existing evidence to decide benefit entitlement. The health care professionals who carry out the examinations are trained in assessing vulnerable customers, and when people are asked to come for an assessment claimants are encouraged to bring a friend or relative with them.

We are committed to engaging with third party organisations, including mental health charities, on an ongoing basis so that they can support their customers through the incapacity benefit reassessment journey.

Employment Schemes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will provide training for voluntary groups who are assisting the long-term unemployed as part of his proposals for the Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [59969]

Chris Grayling: Work programme providers will be free to design support based on individual and local need.

This means determining all their own arrangements, including assembling and managing their own supply chains. The payment model has been designed so that providers will always want to maximise performance, so it will be in their interest to ensure that their subcontractor staff are appropriately trained.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding for the Work programme he plans to allocate to the west midlands in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [59970]

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Work programme funding he plans to allocate to Scotland in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [60585]

Chris Grayling: Work programme funding has not been allocated by country or region. Funding will ultimately come down to individual prime providers, and the amount they are awarded will very much depend on the performance they achieve. We estimate the overall spend for the Work programme to be between £3 billion to £5 billion over the life of the contracts.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of Work programme participants he expects to deal with *(a)* private sector, *(b)* voluntary sector and *(c)* other providers at the point of service delivery. [60949]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme will provide personalised support to an expected 2.4 million claimants over the next seven years.

We expect 630,000 people to start the Work programme in the 10 months between June 2011 and March 2012. By the end of 2012-13 the Work programme could be supporting up to 1.2 million people.

The organisations delivering the Work programme, including first and second tier subcontractors, are split as follows *(a)* private sector 38% *(b)* voluntary sector 46% and *(c)* public sector 16%. At this stage it is not possible to say whether participants will be dealt with by each sector in precisely the same proportions. The proportions will become clearer over time as participants are referred to the programme.

Employment Schemes: Voluntary Organisations

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 662W, on employment schemes: voluntary organisations, how many of the voluntary sector organisations in the Work programme supply chain will operate in each of the 18 regions. [60866]

Chris Grayling: The Work programme supply chain information, including the number of voluntary sector organisations, has been published on the Supplying DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/work-programme/

Incapacity Benefit

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people moved from incapacity benefit to *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* the work related activity group found employment in the latest period for which figures are available. [59656]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Claimants leaving incapacity benefit are not required to inform the Department of their destinations or future intentions and hence the information that is collected on this group is incomplete.

Incapacity Benefits: Appeals

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what time period he has set in which incapacity benefit claimants will be able to appeal reassessment decisions. [45021]

Chris Grayling: The time limit for appealing all benefit outcome decisions, including those on incapacity benefit reassessments, is one month after the date the notification of the decision was sent to the claimant. This can be extended by up to 12 months where there are special circumstances for not making the appeal within the one month period.

Industrial Injuries

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of high temperatures in the workplace the Health and Safety Executive received in each of the last six years. [57955]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not collated centrally in a readily retrievable format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus offices have set any targets for the number of sanctions to be issued by each Jobcentre Plus officer. [53573]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether Jobcentre Plus offices have set any targets for the number of sanctions to be issued by each Jobcentre Plus officer. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm that no such targets exist and that we have reinforced this message to our District Managers. Sanctions should only be made where people have not adhered to their jobseeker obligations. Ministers have been clear that conditionality is an important part of the Jobseeker's regime. Ministers are also, clear however that this should only be applied where appropriate.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Reorganisation

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1239-40W, on Jobcentre Plus: reorganisation, when he plans to make an announcement on the new managerial and organisational structure; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the new structure on *(a)* co-ordination, *(b)* handling of individual constituency queries, *(c)* the responsibility of Ministers within his Department and *(d)* Jobcentre Plus management decision making. [58413]

Chris Grayling: The answer of 11 May 2011 explained that the Department is reviewing its structure and senior management responsibilities so that our programme of reforms and efficiency savings is delivered effectively.

The Department's executive team is therefore leading a programme of work to design the new managerial and organisational structure. This will support the delivery of efficient, coherent services to both pensioner and working age customers.

The Permanent Secretary will announce the senior civil service responsibilities in this new structure to departmental staff shortly.

The Department has considered the effect of the new structure on the co-ordination and handling of constituency queries, and is confident that these will continue to be handled effectively. The quality of decision making by Jobcentre Plus managers will also be unaffected.

If, in future, there are any changes to ministerial responsibilities, these will be appropriately communicated.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance in Scotland have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years. [60586]

Chris Grayling: The numbers of claimants for both jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance who have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in Scotland are as follows. It should be noted that incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.

(a) 90 jobseeker's allowance claimants have been receiving benefits continuously for more than 10 years in Scotland.

(b) 105,750 incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants have been receiving benefits continuously for more than 10 years in Scotland. Employment and support allowance was introduced in 2008 and therefore there are no claimants on this benefit who have been claiming for more than 10 years.

Note: Figures are sourced from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and have been rounded to nearest 10.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance in Coventry have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years. [59968]

Chris Grayling: Following are the numbers of claimants for both jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance who have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in Coventry. It should be noted that incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance from October 2008.

(a) No jobseeker's allowance claimants have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in Coventry.

(b) 4,960 incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants have been receiving benefits for more than 10 years in Coventry. Employment and support allowance was introduced in 2008 and therefore there are no claimants on this benefit who have been claiming for more than 10 years.

Note:

Figures are sourced from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and have been rounded to nearest 10.

Life Expectancy

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 517W, on life expectancy, when he plans to place in the Library copies of the tables on healthy and disability-free life expectancy which his Department has commissioned from the Office for National Statistics. [60877]

Steve Webb: The reply to which the hon. Member refers states that the Department uses data published by the Office for National Statistics as the main source of information on life expectancy and on healthy and disability-free life expectancy. The only previously unpublished life expectancy data the Department commissioned from the Office for National Statistics relate to improvements in life expectancy of people in each social cohort. These were published in the impact assessment which accompanies the Pensions Bill (Annex A, pages 17 and 18).

Members: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to the urgent request from the constituent of the hon. Member for Edinburgh West, Roderick Bowie-MacDonald. [58559]

Chris Grayling: A letter dated 23 March 2011 was received on 8 April 2011 and the Acting Chief Executive of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service replied on 11 April 2011.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Mr Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when Ministers in his Department last met the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the transfer of the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and if he will make a statement. [57541]

Chris Grayling: Ministers of the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Energy and Climate Change met in December 2010 to discuss the establishment of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). There have been no further meetings on this issue since then.

As an agency of the Health and Safety Executive, sponsorship of the ONR rests with the Department for Work and Pensions. The Government announced, on 8 February 2011, their intention to bring forward legislation to establish the ONR as an independent statutory body outside of the HSE. There are no plans to change existing sponsorship arrangements, which ensure the necessary separation between the nuclear regulator and the body responsible for the promotion of nuclear energy.

Poverty: Children

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce child poverty in Scotland. [60584]

Maria Miller: As set out in the Coalition document, the Government are committed to eradicating child poverty in the UK by 2020. We published our strategy for doing so in April. It sets out a new approach to tackling poverty and securing social justice aimed at transforming lives and tackling the causes of poverty. At its heart are the principles of work, fairness, responsibility and support for the most vulnerable. It draws together our radical programme of reform of welfare and education, increasing children's life chances, with a greater concentration on early intervention and on whole family and whole life measures. Our strategy establishes a UK-wide framework for tackling child poverty and builds on strategies developed by the devolved Administrations, including that published by the Scottish Government in March this year.

Shared Housing: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the availability of shared accommodation in Bradford. [57991]

Steve Webb: No assessment has been made of the supply of shared accommodation in Bradford.

Unemployed People: Support Fund

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, Hansard, Written Ministerial Statements, WS 30, on Hardship Fund, how much has gone through to the Hardship Fund for Schools and of each other scheme funded by the Flexible Support Fund in each year since 2005. [58184]

Chris Grayling: The Flexible Support Fund has replaced the following funds: Hardship Fund, Travel to Interview Fund, Advance Travel Fund, Childcare Bridging Fund, Childcare Fund, Childcare Bridging Work Trial, allowances and expenses for client participating Basic Skills Training, Travel to Interview scheme. The total spend on these programmes since 2005-06 is shown in the following table:

Employment programme spend

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11[1]
New Deal for Lone Parents[2]	26.0	41.5	21.1	29.4	18.2	5.6
New Deal for Partners	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Deprived Areas Fund[3]	58.2	21.6	59.0	63.9	63.0	57.4
Advisor Discretion Fund[4]	17.3	12.8	14.2	16.8	40.2	16.8
Customer Services Director's Flexible Fund[5]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.9
Rapid Response	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.9	10.0	6.5
Work Trials	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.9
Allowances and expenses for clients undertaking basic skills training[6]	0.0	1.9	8.7	14.4	22.6	23.2
Travel to Interview Scheme[7]	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.1	6.5	5.7
Total	105.3	82.3	106.4	129.6	162.5	118.1

[1] Figures for 2010-11 are provisional subject to formal sign-off of the departmental accounts.
[2] The spend on New Deal for Lone Parents has reduced considerably since 2009-10 as alternative provision for this client group has been available through the Jobcentre Plus Support Contract.
[3] The Deprived Areas Fund was broadly similar to a range of earlier programmes, specifically Working Neighbourhood Pilots, External and Internal Action teams and Ethnic Minority Outreach. Spend figures prior to 2007-08 relate to these earlier programmes.
[4] The large peak in ADF spend in 2009-10 arose as part of the package of measures to help address the economic downturn. This included allowing newly unemployed customers access to support under ADF from day one of their jobseekers' allowance (JSA) claim. This easement gave advisers the flexibility to tailor the help and support they offered to suit customer needs and deal with any small challenges that may have otherwise prevented a customer from obtaining a specific job more quickly. Prior to this ADF was only available to people who had been in continuous receipt of JSA for 26 weeks or more, unless they were participating in one of the New Deal schemes. In 2010 stricter cost controls were put in place to reduce the spend along with a number of changes in scope, for example, ADF was no longer used to fund training for an individual which would otherwise be available through other employment programmes.
[5] Customer Services Director's Flexible Fund was only operational from 2009-10.
[6] These allowances and expenses were only payable from 2006-07 onwards.
[7] The amount spent on the Travel to Interview Scheme has risen over the last two years as a result of significantly higher take-up.

Work Capability Assessment

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which version of the Work Capability Assessment will be applied to (a) new claimants who applied for employment and support allowance (i) before and (ii) on or after 28 March 2011 and (b) incapacity benefit recipients who were sent an IB50 form (A) before and (B) on or after 28 March 2011. [98819]

Chris Grayling: Changes to the work capability assessment (WCA) came into force through regulations on 28 March 2011. The assessment and the ESA50 questionnaire were updated to reflect these changes. Individuals receiving a new ESA50 questionnaire (reflecting the new regulations) will have a determination made under the new regulations. The new ESA50 form began being issued to claimants from 14 March 2011.

The IB50 form ceased being sent to recipients of incapacity benefit during January 2011.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) [illegible] the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers [illegible] the Royal Navy [illegible] carrier on board these aircraft [illegible]

Peter Luff: The Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers are designed to be able to operate a number of other aircraft designed or modified for aircraft which could be operated from the carrier but with varying degrees of operational flexibility.

Following the decision to convert at least one of the carriers to carry the more capable carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, the list of secondary aircraft is being updated to reflect the change in aircraft launch and recovery equipment. While some fixed-wing aircraft are included within this list, we have not yet made any decisions as to whether there is a requirement for a specific onboard delivery aircraft, and if so, which aircraft or helicopter would undertake such a role.

Armed Services: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new recruits to each of the armed services were recorded as domiciled in each London borough in financial year 2009-10. [99944]

Mr Robertson: This information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table provides the number of recruits, in financial year 2009-10, through London-based careers offices or with educational links to London. While this will give an indication of the numbers recruited from London it does not provide a comprehensive picture of where individuals actually reside as they may not always apply to join the services through their nearest career office or may choose other means by which to apply.

[illegible]

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Officers included in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines total are primarily returned via regional officer careers branch offices each of which covers a large area of the UK. The

recruitment data for army officers, included in the Army total, are based on data related to the location of the schools and universities from which officers are recruited together with the small number recruited via careers offices.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60181]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) recognises the contribution made by small businesses who often bring the agility and innovation we need in responding to demanding and urgent military requirements. For this reason, our consultation Green Paper, 'Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security', published last December, specifically sought views and ideas for encouraging small businesses to participate and a number of specific steps will be set out in a White Paper later this year.

In the meantime, we encourage small businesses to bid for MOD contracts by advertising our requirements over £10,000 on the Government's new 'Contracts Finder' electronic portal and we are working to simplify the bidding and contracting processes. We are also working with our major prime contractors with a view to improving small business access to sub-contract opportunities.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60182]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is responsible for transposing one EU Directive into domestic law, namely the Defence and Security Directive (2009/81/EC). This concerns the co-ordination of procedures for the award of certain works contracts, supply contracts and service contracts by contracting authorities or entities in the fields of Defence and Security. This directive came into force on 21 August 2009 under the previous Government.

Ex-servicemen: Alcoholism

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of veterans who left the forces (a) in the last five years, (b) between five and ten years ago, (c) between ten and twenty years ago and (d) more than twenty years ago who are diagnosed with alcohol abuse. [60154]

Mr Robathan: No information is held that would enable such an estimate to be made.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has undertaken on the characteristics of veterans in prison. [60155]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the joint statement I made with the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt), in the House on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS, on the findings of a study by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA), which is the major piece of research my Department has undertaken on the characteristics of veterans in prison.

Ex-servicemen: Suicide

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of veterans who committed suicide in each of the last 20 years. [60156]

Mr Robathan: Information on the total number of veterans who committed suicide in each of the last 20 years is not held. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently publish data of detailed causes of the mortality, including suicide, of veterans of the 1990-91 operation in the Gulf, together with comparative data for a matched cohort of personnel who did not deploy. The latest data, produced by Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA), were released on 31 March 2011.

The MOD also commissioned research from Manchester university to investigate the level of suicide among those leaving the UK armed forces, over the period 1996 to 2005, and to make comparisons with matched personnel remaining in service and the general population. This work was published in March 2009.

Copies of both reports will be placed in the Library of the House.

The MOD is currently undertaking research into the causes of death, including suicide, among those who served in the Falklands campaign. This research, which is expected to be completed by the end of March 2012, will assist us in continuing to develop our support for our former personnel and those leaving the services. The MOD is also undertaking a similar study on veterans of operations Telic and Herrick. This will monitor the causes of death, including suicide, and cancer morbidity of all serving members of the armed forces from 2003 until the end of operations in Afghanistan. The intention is to run the study for the lifetime of the cohort, therefore the population will include both serving and discharged personnel.

Gulf States: Royal Military Academy

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what cultural training in operation with Gulf State forces is being undertaken at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. [60157]

Nick Harvey: Currently the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst has a cultural awareness training module which forms part of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Cadet Exchange Programme.

Overseas military cadets are sponsored to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst by the military attachés accredited to the UK Ministry of Defence in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as necessary and the relevant national authority.

Merlin Helicopters

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the RAF Merlin Mark 3 will be transferred to the Royal Navy. [60876]

Mr Robathan: We intend to upgrade and transfer our current fleet of Merlin Mk 3/3a helicopters to the Royal Navy: the first upgraded helicopters will enter service with the Commando Helicopter Force in time to replace the Sea King Mk 4 helicopters, which are planned to be withdrawn from service in 2016.

Nuclear Submarines

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost to the public purse will be of designing the US-UK Common Missile Compartment for the Trident replacement submarine in the period from 2011 to 2016; [60025]

(2) what proportion of the cost of the design of the US-UK Common Missile Compartment will be met by the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [60026]

(3) when he expects a decision to be made on the construction location of the US-UK Common Missile Compartment for the Trident replacement submarine; and if he will make a statement. [60027]

Mr Robathan: The cost to the UK Government of the UK's Common Missile Compartment activities over financial years 2011-12 to 2015-16 is estimated at £103 million. The UK has agreed to pay 12.5% of all non-recurring expenditure on design activities.

A decision on where the UK's Common Missile Compartment will be built is planned to be made during 2012. That decision could be made, however, anytime up until the first quarter of 2014 without any adverse impact on the overall successor programme.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the geographical location of RAF Leuchars on the (a) combat radius, (b) maximum range and (c) ferry range of aircraft stationed at the base in the execution of the bases' (i) Quick Reaction Alert (North) duties and (ii) other duties in relation to National Security Strategy priorities; and if he will make a statement. [59616]

Nick Harvey: The geographical location of bases is an important factor in the RAF's future basing decisions. This takes into account requirements for both training and addresses combat capability, including time for Quick Reaction Alert commitments.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment of the performance of the RAF Leuchars in relation to the execution of its Quick Reaction Alert duties took place. [59617]

Nick Harvey: The most recent assessment of the performance of the RAF Leuchars Quick Reaction Alert Force took place on 9 May 2011.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations he has received on his decision on a homecoming parade for the Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast. [60631]

Mr Robathan: The Department has received fewer than 20 representations on the subject of a homecoming parade for the Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast.

Discussions with officials from Belfast city council continue with the aim of agreeing an appropriate way to recognise the contribution of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards and The Royal Irish Regiment during their last tour in Afghanistan.

The Department acknowledges the importance for the general public to have an opportunity to show their appreciation and support for our service personnel; both units will have participated in a full and engaging post operational tour programme by the end of this year, including events in Northern Ireland.

World War One: Anniversaries

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to mark the 100th anniversary of the commencement of the First World War in 2014. [60943]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my noble Friend, Lord Astor of Hever, to the noble Lord, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, in another place on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, *House of Lords*, column 594.

EDUCATION

Academies: Sussex

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress on the academies programme in *(a)* Brighton, Kemptown constituency, *(b)* Brighton and Hove, *(c)* East Sussex and *(d)* West Sussex. [59151]

Mr Gibb: As of 9 June 2011, no schools in the Brighton Kemptown constituency have registered an interest in becoming an academy. Two schools have registered an interest in Brighton and Hove, 27 in East Sussex and 19 in West Sussex. Of these, Ringmer community college in East Sussex has applied and been issued an Academy Order. Hazelwick school, Medmerry Primary School, Southwater Infant school, Southwater Junior school and Warden Park school in West Sussex have applied; all but Warden Park School have been issued Academy Orders.

Brighton Aldridge community academy in Brighton and Hove, along with Eastbourne academy in East Sussex, and Midhurst Rother college, Shoreham academy, Sir Robert Woodard academy and The Littlehampton academy in West Sussex have all opened as sponsored academies.

In addition, Portslade community college in Brighton and Hove; Fitsham Valley school, The Grove and Hillcrest school in East Sussex; and Heyworth Primary school, Manhood community college and The Regis school in West Sussex are planned to open as sponsored academies during the 2011/12 academic year.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the Department for Education academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Children: West Midlands

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children were looked after in each local authority area in the west midlands in each year since 2008-09. [59659]

Tim Loughton: The number of children who were looked after at 31 March in each local authority area in the west midlands, for years 2006 to 2010 (the latest year for which figures are available), is shown in the following tables.

This information has been extracted from table LAA1 of the Statistical First Release 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2010', this is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Table 1: Children looked after at 31 March, in the west midlands by local authority[1,2], years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010, coverage: England

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Numbers[3]				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	60,300	60,000	59,400	60,900	64,400
West Midlands	7,140	7,310	7,370	7,640	8,010
Birmingham	1,970	2.105	2,095	2,095	2,035
Coventry	490	500	535	515	590
Dudley	450	470	510	545	615
Herefordshire	155	170	155	165	160
Sandwell	555	500	480	475	505
Shropshire	190	185	195	200	220
Solihull	280	320	340	405	415
Staffordshire	680	655	660	700	740
Stoke-On-Trent	430	440	415	395	405
Telford and Wrekin	200	230	235	250	270
Walsall	455	430	445	465	495
Warwickshire	465	455	485	540	575
Wolverhampton	375	370	350	370	400
Worcestershire	435	475	480	530	585

Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years

	Rates[4]				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	55	55	54	55	58
West Midlands	59	61	61	64	67
Birmingham	78	84	84	83	80
Coventry	72	74	79	76	86
Dudley	67	70	76	82	93
Herefordshire	42	46	42	45	46
Sandwell	81	74	71	70	73
Shropshire	31	31	32	33	37
Solihull	61	70	74	88	92
Staffordshire	39	38	38	41	44
Stoke-On-Trent	82	85	81	75	78
Telford and Wrekin	51	60	61	66	71
Walsall	75	71	73	77	82
Warwickshire	42	41	43	48	52
Wolverhampton	70	69	66	69	76

					Numbers and rates per 10,000 children aged under 18 years
			Rates[4]		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Worcestershire	37	40	41	45	50

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[3] England totals have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Other numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
[4] The rates per 10,000 children under 18 years have been derived using the mid-year population estimates for 2009 provided by the Office for National Statistics.
Source:
SSDA 903

Departmental Renewable Energy

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many buildings *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by his Department have had renewable energy equipment installed to provide power in the last 12 months; and what type of equipment was installed in each such case. [59671]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has not installed renewable energy equipment in any of its owned or leased buildings in the last 12 months.

However, 123 photovoltaic panels were installed onto the roof of 2 St Paul's Place in Sheffield, a property owned by the Department, in May 2010. These panels generate approximately 16,000 kWh of electricity a year, for use within the building.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59731]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education's business plan, initially published in November 2010 with a refreshed version published in May 2011, sets out the Department's high-level vision and reform priorities for the whole of the spending review period, alongside the resources we will spend and the data we will be making available to the public to show the impact our reforms are having. Progress against the business plan is set out in the structural reform plan monthly updates on the No. 10 website.

Design: Curriculum

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has assessed the effects on the creative industries and manufacturing of the potential removal of design and technology from the national curriculum. [59822]

Mr Gibb: As part of the current review of the national curriculum we will be considering all the relevant evidence before making proposals on which, if any, subjects beyond English, mathematics, science and physical education should remain part of the national curriculum in future.

We have already completed a Call for Evidence to which the public were invited to contribute their views and experiences about curriculum subjects, including design and technology. We received nearly 5,800 responses, including many from representatives of industry and commerce, and these are currently being analysed. We will draw on this and other evidence, including relevant international evidence, in drawing up our proposals. There will then be a further statutory consultation on those proposals early next year, before final decisions are taken.

Home Education

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of funding reductions on the provision of one-to-one tuition in the summer term for pupils approaching examinations or end of primary school assessments. [60897]

Mr Gibb: £256 million was allocated to schools in 2010-11 through the Standards Fund for one-to-one tuition. This funding has not been reduced and schools can use it until 31 August 2011. The conditions for the use of this funding have been relaxed to allow all schools the flexibility to offer one-to-one tuition at Key Stage 4, from within their Key Stage 3 allocations.

Funding for one-to-one tuition for 2011-12 has been included as part of schools' overall budgets through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Schools can use their DSG funding as they see fit. Where schools decide to offer one-to-one tuition, they will have more flexibility to provide it in the way that best suits their pupils.

Marriage Guidance: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on marriage guidance: grants, what proportion of the work of each organisation listed funded by his Department's Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Scheme will be *(a)* preventative couple relationship support, *(b)* relationship counselling for couples in difficulty and *(c)* work with families which have already experienced break-up; in which local authorities they will work; and how many couples he expects each organisation to help. [61057]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not hold information by organisation showing which funds have been allocated by the breakdown requested by my hon. Friend.

Schools: Bolton

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of schools in Bolton metropolitan borough that will have funding withdrawn during the academic year as a result of the reduction in his Department's Standards Fund in April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [60068]

Mr Gibb: The final instalment of the Standards Fund for 2010-11 was paid as part of the Dedicated Schools Grant payment to local authorities on 19 May 2011. These arrangements should mean that it will not be necessary for local authorities to make any in-year adjustments to schools' budgets.

Schools: Capital Investment

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the James review of capital funding. [58192]

Mr Gibb: The Government will respond to the capital review soon.

However we are already implementing changes that are very much in the spirit of the capital review recommendations, and which will help deliver the buildings and facilities that children need. These include focusing the available funding on providing new school places where they are needed, and on the buildings in the worst condition; getting the best value for money from our existing Building Schools for the Future commitments and other projects; and considering how the school premises regulations can be simplified so as to remove unnecessary burdens and blockages.

Schools: Rural Areas

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provisions in legislation govern the potential closure of rural schools; and whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to revise those provisions. [58558]

Mr Gibb: There is currently a presumption against closure of rural primary schools. This was introduced in 1998 and reinforced in the 2006 Education and Inspections Act. Although this presumption exists, the presumption does not mean that no rural school will ever close, but it does ensure that the case for closure is strong and that the proposals are clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area. We recognise the importance of preserving access to a local school for rural communities and therefore plan for the presumption against the closure of rural schools to continue.

Teachers: Pensions

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects of proposed changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme on teachers in independent schools. [59393]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, chaired by Lord Hutton, published its final report on 10 March and the Government have agreed that its recommendations will form the basis for consultation. No decisions have yet been taken on changes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The Government's consultation will include consultation with representatives of all stakeholders, including teacher unions and representatives of the Independent Schools Sector.

Teachers: Training

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effect of *(a)* changes to the funding of teacher education and *(b)* the introduction of tuition fees on the (i) capacity and (ii) quality of teacher education. [60153]

Mr Gibb: The Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", said that we would publish details of our reforms to initial teacher training. We will shortly be publishing these proposals, which will include consideration of funding and student finance. There will be a period of discussion following publication when we will be seeking views from the sector about the potential effect of our proposals, and we will publish our finalised plans for reform once we have assessed the responses.

University Technical Colleges

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 55W, on university technical colleges, if he will publish a list of approved university technical colleges including their sponsors. [59680]

Mr Gibb: The Department is now assessing the full applications that it has received to establish university technical colleges from September 2012 onwards. An announcement will be made in due course about those that are approved. That announcement will include the sponsors submitting the proposals.

University technical colleges have already been approved in four cases:

Walsall (black country) sponsored by Walsall college and Wolverhampton university;

Aston sponsored by Aston university;

Greenwich sponsored by Greenwich university, Greenwich local authority and Lewisham college; and

Hackney sponsored by Hackney community college.

Of these, Walsall and Aston have signed funding agreements.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Social Housing

22. **Stephen Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase the provision of social rented housing. [60295]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are investing nearly £4.5 billion to help deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes between 2011-12 and 2014-15 in England.

We have introduced a new more flexible form of social housing, Affordable Rent, which will be the main element of the new supply. There will also be some flexibility to fund other forms of tenure including social rent in exceptional circumstances.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of new social housing starts between May 2010 and April 2015. [60293]

Grant Shapps: Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, there were 35,690 starts on site for social rented homes through the Homes and Communities Agency.

We are investing £4.5 billion to deliver up to 150,000 new affordable homes between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2015.

Local Government Resources Review

21. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress he has made on the local government resources review. [60294]

Mr Pickles: Since the publication of the terms of reference on 17 March 2011, the local government resource review has been considering options on how to allow local authorities to keep at least a proportion of business rates, and how to introduce powers to allow them to carry out tax increment financing. The review has held a number of meetings with partners in local government and with businesses and their representative organisations. It will publish its proposals shortly for consultation.

Housing: Pendle

24. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of empty homes and to support housing regeneration in Pendle constituency. [60297]

Andrew Stunell: Over the next six years, through the New Homes Bonus, Pendle will receive over £600,000 for additional homes and empty properties brought into use in the first year. Further payments will be made based on future delivery.

Pendle will also benefit from the £30 million provided nationally to help challenged Housing Market Renewal areas exit from the programme.

Localism Bill: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on the effects on Wales of implementation of the provisions of the Localism Bill. [60296]

Greg Clark: Ministers have written to Welsh Assembly Government Ministers about a range of issues in the Localism Bill.

As normal with Bills that affect Wales, discussions between the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government have been ongoing as the Localism Bill has progressed through this House and the other place.

Audit Commission: National Audit Office

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates representatives of the Audit Commission dined with representatives of the National Audit Office paid for by the public purse since 2007-08; in which restaurants each meal took place; and at what cost. [61062][1]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 20 June 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission has paid for meals with the NAO on five occasions since 2007/08:

1 November 2007 the then MD, Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO for lunch. Information on the location and cost is no longer available.

3 December 2007 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO, dined at L'Escargot at a cost of £103.39;

5 May 2009 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive, Michael O'Higgins, Chairman and Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO dined at Qurinale at a cost of £240.19;

14 September 2009 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO at the Ebury Wine Bar at a cost of £53.04; and

7 April 2010 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO at the Footstool restaurant at a cost of £22.50.

The Commission dined with the NAO on three occasions where the Commission did not pay.

11 June 2007 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO met for dinner at Wiltons;

15 January 2009 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO for lunch at the Ebury Wine Bar; and

2 February 2011 Eugene Sullivan, Chief Executive had a breakfast meeting with the Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO, Amyas Morse at the Mint Hotel.

EU Grants and Loans: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the European Regional Development Fund for Yorkshire and the Humber has not yet been allocated in the most recent spending round. [60267]

Robert Neill: Of the total €583,580,959 allocated from the European Regional Development Fund to Yorkshire and Humber, €326,521,131 has yet to be committed.

1. *[Official Report, 6 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 17MC.]*

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire hydrants are in operation in England and Wales. [60256]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rescues from fires were carried out *(a)* by each fire brigade and *(b)* in each region between April 2010 and March 2011. [60712]

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rescues from fires each fire brigade in each region carried out in the latest period for which figures are available. [60255]

Robert Neill: The number of persons rescued from fires between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011 for each fire and rescue authority area and for each statistical region are shown in the following table.

Rescues from fires by fire and rescue authority area and by region, England, 2010-11[1]

	Casualties rescued[2]		*Uninjured and rescued*		
	Rescued by firefighters	*Rescued by other/ unknown*	*Rescued by firefighters*	*Rescued by other/ unknown*	*Total persons rescued*
East Midlands	97	47	92	63	299
Derbyshire	27	15	33	31	106
Leicestershire	14	7	10	10	41
Lincolnshire	7	7	1	0	15
Northamptonshire	14	8	14	9	45
Nottinghamshire	35	10	34	13	92
Eastern	133	45	146	58	382
Bedfordshire	16	1	34	3	54
Cambridgeshire	10	7	11	24	52
Essex	35	10	42	5	92
Hertfordshire	29	8	10	9	56
Norfolk	20	8	20	7	55
Suffolk	23	11	29	10	73
London	296	97	226	89	708
North East	90	31	47	21	189
Cleveland	14	4	8	3	29
Durham	16	7	3	6	32
Northumberland	2	4	8	4	18
Tyne and Wear	58	16	28	8	110
North West	378	129	197	61	765
Cheshire	10	14	35	17	76
Cumbria	15	3	7	3	28
Lancashire	105	25	38	12	180
Greater Manchester	201	73	88	21	383
Merseyside	47	14	29	8	98
South East	235	58	188	53	534
Berkshire	18	9	35	6	68
Buckinghamshire	10	4	14	2	30
East Sussex	30	8	29	7	74
Hampshire	34	7	36	8	85
Isle of Wight	3	0	1	0	4
Kent	56	15	38	12	121
Oxfordshire	19	5	10	4	38
Surrey	20	8	18	7	53
West Sussex	45	2	7	7	61
South West	91	58	115	55	319
Avon	22	12	19	15	68
Cornwall	6	8	8	8	30
Devon and Somerset	30	12	54	18	114
Dorset	6	1	20	2	29

Rescues from fires by fire and rescue authority area and by region, England, 2010-11[1]

	Casualties rescued[2]		Uninjured and rescued		
	Rescued by firefighters	Rescued by other/ unknown	Rescued by firefighters	Rescued by other/ unknown	Total persons rescued
Gloucestershire	17	16	9	6	48
Wiltshire	10	9	5	6	30
West Midlands	180	95	97	50	422
Hereford and Worcester	16	11	10	4	41
Shropshire	9	2	10	4	25
Staffordshire	34	26	8	19	87
Warwickshire	4	8	17	8	37
West Midlands	117	48	52	15	232
Yorkshire and Humberside	210	90	135	61	496
Humberside	57	27	19	16	119
North Yorkshire	18	5	16	2	41
South Yorkshire	33	14	40	24	111
West Yorkshire	102	44	60	19	225
England	1,710	650	1,243	511	4,114

[1] = Provisional
[2] Includes 367 cases where there was no obvious sign of injury but a precautionary check was recommended.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Incident Records, DCLG

Heating: Registration

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons he proposes to make UK Accreditation Service registration compulsory for solid fuel installations; what estimate he has made of the number of installers who are likely to be affected by this change; what timetable he has set for its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [60959]

Andrew Stunell: The Department is proposing to introduce a requirement for UKAS accreditation to standard EN 45011 for all Building Regulations competent person self-certification schemes, including those authorised for the installation of solid fuel combustion appliances. Accreditation to this standard will improve the consistency of the quality assurance systems of the schemes, particularly in respect of the assessment of the technical competence and monitoring of activities of their members. This will also help to improve compliance with the Building Regulations to the benefit of the customers of the members.

Accreditation applies to the operators of competent person schemes, not to the registered members of the schemes and should have little or no effect on the members who are competent and carry out compliant work. Accreditation will bring competent person schemes into line with the Department for Energy and Climate Change's Microgeneration Certification Scheme and the Green Deal.

At 31 March 2011 there were about 1,900 registered installer members of competent person schemes authorised for the installation of solid fuel combustion appliances.

We propose to introduce the requirement from 1 October 2011 but will grant schemes an appropriate transitional period after that to achieve accreditation.

Housing: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of homes built in Leeds were built on *(a)* brownfield and *(b)* greenfield land in each of the last five years. [60230]

Robert Neill: The proportion of homes built on previously-developed (including previously-residential) and non previously-developed land in the periods 2002 to 2005 and 2006 to 2009 can be found in the following table.

Leeds	*2002-05*	*2006-09*
Previously-developed	81	81
Non previously-developed	19	19

This information is taken from table P213 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Live Tables on Land Use Change Statistics.

Information for local authorities is shown in four-year periods because of volatility in estimates for individual years.

The figures for previously developed land include development on gardens.

Local Government: Complaints

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered the merits of allowing complaints lodged against parish and town councils to be investigated by the local government ombudsman. [58532]

Robert Neill: We are open to representations on this matter.

Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60099]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), on 16 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 895W.

Private Rented Housing: Standards

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Localism Bill to enable local authorities to impose penalties on private landlords who are found to be in breach of national and local standards for the quality of accommodation on more than one occasion. [60754]

Grant Shapps: Local authorities already have powers under the Housing Act 2004 to take action against the owners of properties which are not properly maintained. If, having made an assessment under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System, a property is found to contain serious (category 1) hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This could range from trying to deal with the problems informally at first to prohibiting the use of the whole or part of the dwelling depending on the severity of the hazard. Failure to comply with a statutory notice could lead to a fine of up to £5,000.

Although I keep these matters under constant review we have no plans to review the operation of the Housing Health and Safety System or its associated enforcement regime.

Public Sector: Land

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire will be included in the pilot scheme for auctions of publicly-owned land in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [60602]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1383W. Details of the pilot of the land disposal elements of the land auction model, including potential locations will be announced in due course.

Rent Service

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Rent Service spent on services provided by Poisson Rouge/Red Fish Corporation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; for what type of event, and in what locations. [61066]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The Rent Service was abolished in 2009 and its functions transferred to the VOA. Historical information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Trade Unions

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an estimate of the number of full-time trades union officials whose salary is paid by local authorities. [61067]

Robert Neill: This information is not centrally collated by my Department.

However, in September 2010, I note that the Taxpayers Alliance published a comprehensive survey of public authorities' employment of trade union officials.

http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/campaign/2010/09/new-tpa-research-taxpayers-fund-trade-unions-to-the-tune-of-85-million-a-year.html

Moving forward, my Department's local government transparency initiative will help ensure that payments to trade unions and the titles of staff posts are open to greater public scrutiny.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions to hospital in 2009-10 were readmissions. [59926]

Anne Milton: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mrs Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what definition the NHS uses of an alcohol-related admission to hospital; [59928]

(2) what methodology the NHS uses to determine whether a patient admission to hospital is alcohol-related. [59929]

Anne Milton: The NHS Information Centre and the Department use a common method to estimate alcohol-related admissions, based on research undertaken by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO).

The method makes use of the internationally applied concept of attributable fractions. In the case of alcohol-related admissions, an attributable fraction represents the estimated percentage of admissions that can be attributed to alcohol consumption. The NWPHO estimated fractions for the 47 conditions for which there was sufficient epidemiological evidence that the risk of morbidity is affected by alcohol consumption. In some cases, such as alcoholic liver disease, the conditions are wholly attributable to alcohol, in which case the attributable fraction is 1, or 100%. In the case of partially attributable conditions, the fractions often vary by age and sex. The list includes chronic conditions such as some cancers, acute conditions such as ethanol poisoning, and external causes such as road accidents.

Further details about how the fractions were generated can be found in the NWPHO report "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions", available at:

www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm

Further details about how the fractions are applied to hospital episode data can be found in the report "NI39 technical guide", available at:

www.nwph.net/alcohol/lape/nationalindicator.htm

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to improve response times of ambulances in metropolitan cities. [59966]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has examined the whole area of targets, including those in the ambulance service, to put patient safety, experience and outcomes at the centre of the national health service. Plans to strengthen the Category A (immediately life-threatening), eight-minute response time target are currently being considered, but there are no separate plans to centrally review response times for ambulances in metropolitan cities. Each trust must ensure and be able to demonstrate that it has regard to the reasonable needs of persons in the whole of the area to which the trust must ordinarily provide goods and services.

Care Homes

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the likely change in the level of preventable deaths resulting from vulnerable people being moved out of residential care to which they are accustomed. [60065]

Paul Burstow: The Department appreciates that it can be traumatic for some frail, older or vulnerable people if they have to be moved from residential care homes, which have become their true homes.

The decision to close a care home is taken either by the local council or, if it is an independent home, the proprietor(s). The Department is concerned that any decision to close a home should be dealt with as sensitively and appropriately as possible. It is essential that proper arrangements are made for the safe and satisfactory transfer of residents to other suitable homes.

Residents and their families should be fully involved in and consulted during the process. Adequate time should be allowed, so that residents and their relatives can make decisions and arrangements in a way that minimises stress.

Local authorities are experienced at moving care home residents and understand that any such moves should be well planned and sensitively carried out. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 requires that, where a vulnerable person lacks capacity and has no family involved in their care, the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate should be appointed to represent their interests.

On 8 June, the university of Birmingham published a guide on care home closures, entitled "Achieving closure: Good practice in supporting older people during residential care closures". The report was commissioned by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and has gone to every focal authority in England. It is available on the university of Birmingham website at:

www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2011/06/08June CareReport.aspx

Where a move is carried out well, the Department expects that there should be no preventable deaths.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what responsibility NHS commissioners have for the care of vulnerable clients placed into care services. [60158]

Paul Burstow: National health service commissioners are responsible for including in the contracts they make with providers terms to ensure that high quality services are delivered for patients and that value is delivered for the taxpayer. They are also responsible for making sure that providers are registered with the Care Quality Commission.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission in regulating the standard of care homes; and if he will make a statement. [59967]

Paul Burstow: The Department monitors the Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) financial and operational performance and risks through regular formal accountability meetings. Regular meetings are also held between Ministers, the Permanent Secretary, the chief executive of the NHS, and the chair and chief executive of the CQC, as well as at officials' level.

The CQC is responsible for assessing and ensuring the quality of its inspection and monitoring of specific providers on a day-to-day basis. The CQC's annual accounts and annual report are laid before Parliament and it is publicly accountable through parliamentary scrutiny, including Select Committees.

To ensure the social care system of the future is fit for purpose, the forthcoming social care White Paper will explore the place of regulation alongside other mechanisms in driving quality improvement in social care. This will include a discussion of the opportunities presented to refine and strengthen the CQC's role as a quality inspectorate in this new system.

Care Quality Commission: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the provision of funding for the Care Quality Commission. [60770]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has a budget settlement for 2011-12 that has been agreed with the Department. The CQC's financial position is kept under constant review during the financial year and Ministers and officials meet with the CQC on a regular basis. Funding is discussed as necessary.

The CQC made representations to the Department regarding the provision of funding as part of the 2011-12 budget setting process.

The hon. Member for Leeds North East (Fabian Hamilton) has asked a written parliamentary question on the subject.

Departmental records show that, since 1 April 2011, we have received one item of correspondence about the provision of funding for the CQC from a member of the public. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effect of funding allocated by his Department on the capacity of the Care Quality Commission to meet inspection demand in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [60820]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. It is therefore for the CQC to determine how it delivers its regulatory functions, including the capacity it requires in order to carry out its inspection functions efficiently and effectively.

Each year, the CQC agrees its business plan and financial allocation with the Department. Its financial position is then kept under constant review during the financial year.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department expects to allocate to the Care Quality Commission in each of the next five years. [60769]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has an initial 2011-12 revenue budget settlement of £50 million from the Department. The CQC has also estimated that fees due from registered providers in 2011-12 will amount to £92 million. The Department will shortly confirm the CQC's initial 2011-12 budget for capital and associated revenue charges.

The CQC's financial position is kept under constant review during the financial year.

Funding for the CQC for 2012-13, and beyond, will be considered in due course.

Care Quality Commission: Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the number of inspectors employed by the Care Quality Commission; and if he will make a statement. [60771]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. It is therefore for the CQC to determine how it delivers its regulatory functions, including the staffing complement it requires in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

Departmental Ministerial Responsibility

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of meeting requests from hon. Members which its Ministers *(a)* agree to and *(b)* refuse; and what criteria are used in determining the outcome of a request. [61006]

Mr Simon Burns: Records of written meeting requests, and responses, are held on the Department's correspondence database.

A variety of factors are considered in determining the response to each meeting request.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60187]

Mr Simon Burns: This Department has fully effected the transparency requirements on procurement which now apply to all central Departments under this Government. These include:

all new central Government tender documents for contracts over £10,000 to be published on a single website from September 2010, with this information to be made available to the public free of charge; and

all new central Government ICT contracts over £10,000 to be published in full online from July 2010.

The publication of these documents takes place on Contracts Finder, which is a Government-wide website implemented by the Cabinet Office.

As all Departments are required to do, this Department has also agreed in May of this year its own small and medium-sized businesses (SME) action plan with the Cabinet Office, which sets out specific steps to engage more with and help SMEs. This has now been published. These measures are all to ensure that SMEs have good notice of all tender opportunities and that they can compete on an equal footing for public sector contracts, helping to achieve the Government's aspiration to award 25% of Government contracts to SMEs.

A copy of the action plan has been place in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_127337.pdf

Figures from the Department's central procurements database show that for the financial year just ended, 2010-11, the Department awarded 27.6% of contracts to SMEs. The Department will be monitoring the proportion of contracts awarded to SMEs over the coming year.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the Medical Training Initiative of a reduction in the length of Tier 5 (temporary worker) visas from two years to 12 months. [60744]

Anne Milton: The Secretary of State for Health recognises the value of the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) and the necessity to allow sufficient time for all parties to capitalise on the benefits of the scheme.

The Department is working closely with the Home Office and stakeholders to put forward the case for maintaining an effective MTI scheme that allows the national health service to contribute to the training and development of international doctors.

Health: Screening

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been seen under the NHS Health Check programme in each primary care trust area since April 2009. [59934]

Mr Simon Burns: For 2009-10, we do not have the data requested. Based on strategic health authority (SHA) estimates, approximately 1 million NHS Health Check-type checks were offered to people and about 700,000 were delivered in that year.

The programme was included in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 NHS Operating Framework, but it was for local implementation and not national performance management. This meant that primary care trusts (PCTs) could decide locally when to start implementing the programme. In addition, there have been issues with establishing a new data collection and ensuring that reporting on the programme has been accurate. We estimate that during 2010-11 approximately 1.4 million checks were offered and about 820,000 were delivered.

In 2011-12, the programme has a supporting measure in the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework. This has enabled us to work closely with SHAs to ensure that PCTs' plans for implementing the programme are aimed at reaching 18% of their eligible cohort and that the data they return are of better quality. This will enable the data on the number of NHS Health Checks carried out to be published on a quarterly basis from Quarter 1 of 2011-12 onwards.

Hospitals: Private Finance Initiative

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to exclude from the provisions of contracts under the private finance initiative charges to charitable organisations for the maintenance of wall-mounted items donated to NHS hospitals. [60143]

Mr Simon Burns: Private finance initiative contracts are held between a private sector consortium and the national health service procuring authority, which incurs the charges for services delivered under the contract. It is for the NHS body to agree at a local level the affordability and value for money case of any additional charges which it may incur under the contract through working with other third-party organisations such as charitable bodies.

Medical Equipment: EU Action

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will discuss with his EU counterparts steps to improve the scrutiny of high risk medical devices. [60843]

Mr Simon Burns: The European Commission have indicated that they intend to bring forward proposals to recast the existing medical devices directives (covering medical devices, active implantable medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices) in early 2012. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is actively involved in discussions with the Commission and other member states in advance of formal proposals being adopted.

The Government consider that the existing regulatory framework is fundamentally sound, striking an appropriate balance between fostering innovation and ensuring patient safety. The recast is an opportunity to address issues of variability across member states, by improving the oversight of notified bodies, ensuring uniform high standards of conformity assessment and strengthening post-market surveillance, all of which will have an impact on the scrutiny of high risk medical devices.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to spend on measures to improve the mental health of prisoners in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [59895]

Paul Burstow: NHS primary care trusts have been responsible for commissioning offender health services for their offender population since 2006. Therefore, the distribution of funding for mental health services for prisoners will be determined locally by NHS primary care trusts who will take into account the needs of their offender population based on Joint Strategic Needs Assessments.

The Government's spending review committed us to taking forward proposals to invest in mental health diversion services at police stations and courts to intervene at an early stage, diverting offenders with mental health problems away from the justice system and into treatment where appropriate. These services will be rolled out nationally over the spending review period, subject to business case approval.

At a joint Health and Criminal Justice Programme/Revolving Doors Agency conference in March, I announced a programme of diversion pathfinder sites, supported with a £5 million investment in the coming year:

£3 million investment in 40 adult diversion sites in 2011-12; working with 20 of these diversion pathfinders to help build the business case for diversion; and

£2 million towards up to 60 youth sites for diversion, and extending pilots to other areas of the country.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 442W, on NHS: reorganisation, what the *(a)* location and *(b)* date was of each of the listening events he attended. [59980]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the listening exercise, the ministerial team, along with members of the NHS Future Forum, have visited every region in the country attending around 200 listening events, to listen to views of the public, staff and patients. The Secretary of State attended 35 of these events:

Number of events	Date	Title of meeting	Location
1	13 April 2011	Royal College of Nursing Congress—listening session	Liverpool
2	19 April 2011	Foundation Trust Network listening roundtable	London
3	19 April 2011	Listening meeting British Medical Association	London
4	20 April 2011	Listening visit—Bedford Hospital	Bedford
5	27 April 2011	Listening Visit to South Westminster Commissioning Consortium	London
6	3 May 2011	Listening event with Bishops	London
7	3 May 2011	Bishops Listening Event	London
8	3 May 2011	Listening meeting with Faculty of Public Health	London
9	3 May 2011	Listening Lunch with Lords Peers	London
10	9 May 2011	Listening meeting with Royal College of GPs	London
11	9 May 2011	Trade Union Listening event	London
12	10 May 2011	Ageing Population conference—National Council of Palliative Care—listening session	London
13	10 May 2011	Workforce education/leadership event—Delivering the Healthcare Workforce consultation—listening event	London
14	10 May 2011	Monitor listening meeting	London
15	11 May 2011	UK Medical Students Association—listening meeting	Bournemouth
16	12 May 2011	Listening Event at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	London
17	12 May 2011	Clinical Fellows Event—National Leadership Council listening event	London
18	12 May 2011	NHS Employers Diversity Partners—listening event	London
19	12 May 2011	Nottinghamshire GP Principia Listening event	Nottingham
20	13 May 2011	Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland—Conference listening event	Bournemouth
21	17 May 2011	Listening event with Lords Peers	London
22	17 May 2011	Voluntary Sector and Social Enterprise listening meeting	London
23	17 May 2011	Listening Meeting for Neurological Charities	London
24	17 May 2011	Listening Meeting with Chief Nursing Officer nurses and Allied Health Professionals	London
25	17 May 2011	Listening event with Rethink Charities	London
26	17 May 2011	Listening session at the National Council for Palliative Care	London
27	18 May 2011	Kings Fund Leadership Conference—listening session	London
28	19 May 2011	East Anglia Cancer Network—listening session	Norwich
29	19 May 2011	Academy of Royal Colleges—council meeting—Listening session	London
30	19 May 2011	Patient listening Event with Health Charity Coalition	London
31	20 May 2011	Listening visit to Papworth Hospital Visit	Papworth
32	20 May 2011	Listening Event at University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust, North West	Manchester
33	24 May 2011	GP Pathfinder event—listening session	London
34	24 May 2011	Listening event with Lords Peers	London
35	24 May 2011	Listening session at London wide GP commissioning council	London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 442W, on NHS: reorganisation, what the *(a)* location and *(b)* date was of each of the listening events. [59981]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the listening exercise, the ministerial team, along with members of the NHS Future Forum, have attended around 200 listening events, to listen to views of the public, staff and patients.

A copy of the NHS listening exercise table of events has been placed in the Library.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date officials from his Department instructed Parliamentary Counsel to draft amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to take account of the outcome of the NHS Future Forum consultation. [60818]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers were actively involved in the listening exercise talking to a wide range of patients, staff and stakeholders, as well as meeting with the Future Forum members. In addition, the Future Forum leads made a number of public statements during the listening exercise about the ideas coming out of the process.

This enabled preparatory work to be undertaken in advance of the Government's response, including exploring potential amendments with Parliamentary Counsel. Final decisions about policy changes—and subsequent amendments—were made at Cabinet on 14 June.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60098]

Mr Simon Burns: The issues posed by peak oil will affect all sectors of the economy including the NHS. The NHS will embrace Government strategies to manage any challenges resulting in a peak oil situation. The NHS is engaged in the Government's strategy to meet

the challenge of reducing and controlling the use of energy consistent with delivering high quality patient care.

Perinatal Mortality

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of perinatal mortality and stillbirth; [59933]

(2) pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State, Department for Health, the right hon. Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns) of 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 106WH, on stillbirth, what steps he plans to take to reduce stillbirths. [59978]

Anne Milton: The Government have made reducing perinatal mortality, including stillbirth, an improvement area under domain one of the NHS Outcomes Framework for 2011-12. To support the national health service in improving outcomes in pregnancy, labour and immediately after birth, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will develop new quality standards, based on the best available evidence, on antenatal care, intrapartum care and postnatal care.

The Department encourages early access to maternity services and has included the maternity 12-week early access indicator as one of the measures for quality in the NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12. This will facilitate the dissemination of public health advice on how to minimise the risk of stillbirth and enable those women who can be identified as being at increased risk to receive additional support and monitoring.

The Department also continues to invest in research. A major focus of the Department's National Institute for Health Research programme on women's health is understanding the factors linked to stillbirth and to use that information to improve the clinical care of pregnant women.

Primary Care Trusts: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations were undertaken prior to the merger of Warrington primary care trust with other primary care trusts in Cheshire; where and in what form such consultations took place; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each response received to the consultations. [60951]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts (PCTs) across England have come together to form PCT clusters to ensure that they can sustain management capacity and continue to deliver their responsibilities until PCTs are abolished in April 2013, subject to parliamentary approval of the Health and Social Care Bill.

These clusters are not statutory bodies and do not replace PCTs, which will continue to exist. No formal consultation was required to create them but the strategic health authority engaged with key stakeholders, including writing to Members of Parliament in February 2011.

Psoriasis

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the care pathway for psoriasis patients; and if he will make a statement; [60961]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the physical, mental and economic effect of psoriasis on patients who are unable to work at times due to the condition. [60962]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no formal assessment of the impact of psoriasis on patients but it fully recognises the importance of ensuring that patients receive the right care and support. In October 2009, the Department and the Welsh Assembly Government formally requested the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to prepare a clinical guideline on psoriasis.

Respite Care: Finance

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the administration of funds for short respite breaks for carers following the proposed abolition of primary care trusts; and if he will make a statement. [61007]

Paul Burstow: The Department is making an additional £400 million available for carers' breaks between 2011-15.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2011/12" states that:

> "It has not always been apparent how funding to support carers has been used in each PCT. The Spending Review has made available additional funding in PCT baselines to support the provision of breaks for carers. PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011/12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

This funding is currently available in primary care trust (PCT) allocations. Following the abolition of PCTs in 2013, subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, we expect that the money will be held by the new Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Blood, Tissues and Organs Safety

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the answer to Baroness Masham of Ilton of 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column WA301, on health: contaminated blood products, what measures he plans to put in place to safeguard the independence of the committee of experts which will supersede the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs from 2012; [61048]

(2) what plans he has for the constitution of the committee of experts which will supersede the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs from 2012; [61049]

(3) on what basis the programme of work will be decided for the committee of experts which will supersede the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs from 2012. [61050]

Anne Milton: The terms of reference and membership of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) will remain unchanged. SaBTO will continue to provide independent advice to United Kingdom Departments, and its work programme will continue to be set in agreement between the Health

Departments and the Committee. The only change is in its designation, and by 2012 SaBTO will be designated a Department of Health expert committee.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60202]

Mr Simon Burns: For financial year 2010-11 the proportion of contracts awarded by the Department to small and medium-sized businesses which supplied addresses for Scotland was 1.1%. No contracts were awarded to such businesses which supplied addresses for the areas of South Lanarkshire or Rutherglen and Hamilton West.

To conduct a similar search and analysis for the Department's agency (the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) would incur a disproportionate cost due to the nature of their information technology systems.

Southern Cross Healthcare Services: Care Homes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Care Quality Commission on ensuring appropriate standards of care in homes run by Southern Cross; and if he will make a statement. [61058]

Paul Burstow: It is for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as regulator of health and social care services, to ensure that the care provided in all care homes meets essential standards of quality and safety. The CQC will pay particular attention to any care homes where there is a concern that quality may be at risk or inadequate.

As I stated to the House on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 928, I have asked the CQC to undertake additional inspections to address concerns arising from the 3,000 proposed job losses at Southern Cross.

The Department is working closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association, local authorities and the CQC to ensure that contingency plans are in place which will allow for the continuation of care under any eventuality. There are frequent discussions between the parties involved.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with Ministers in the Welsh Government on Southern Cross care homes. [59953]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations regarding this issue. I have spoken with all United Kingdom Ministers responsible for the matter to ensure a consistent and effective response across the country. We will continue to talk as the need arises.

I last had discussions with Gwenda Thomas, AM, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services in the Welsh Government, on 14 June 2011.

Tobacco Free Lancashire: Finance

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding from the public purse was allocated to Tobacco Free Lancashire in financial year *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12 to date. [60952]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally.

Tobacco Free Lancashire is a multi-agency group which includes representatives from primary care trusts, local authorities and fire services among others, who use their own existing resources to work on joint projects to tackle particular aspects of tobacco control locally.

Transplant Surgery

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* heart, *(b)* liver, *(c)* lung, *(d)* kidney and *(e)* other organ transplants were performed privately by each NHS foundation trust on patients from (i) the UK, (ii) the EU and (iii) outside the EU in the latest period for which figures are available; [60227]

(2) how many NHS patients are on a waiting list for a *(a)* heart, *(b)* liver, *(c)* lung, *(d)* kidney and *(e)* other organ transplant. [60231]

Anne Milton: Information is not held centrally on how many organ transplants were performed privately by each NHS foundation trust.

The number of national health service patients on the national waiting list for a heart, liver, lung, kidney and other organ transplants is provided in the following table.

Transplant type	*Total*
Kidney	6,445
Pancreas	35
Kidney/pancreas	207
Pancreas islets	24
Heart	129
Lung	206
Heart/lung	13
Liver	478
Other (multi-organ)	28
Total	7,565

Note:
The table provides activity figures for the United Kingdom as at 9 June 2011
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

CABINET OFFICE

Cabinet Committees

Mr Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions the Coalition Committee has met since May 2010. [61127]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Committee meetings enable Ministers to discuss issues freely in private in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility, and the Ministerial Code (paragraph 2.3) requires that

"the internal process through which a decision has been made, or the level of Committee by which it was taken should not be disclosed".

It is therefore longstanding practice not to disclose details of the number of times each Committee has met or the issues discussed.

Death: Cancer

Mrs Laing: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of deaths from cancer in the last three years were of people who were *(a)* teetotallers, *(b)* moderate drinkers and *(c)* heavy drinkers. [59927]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what proportion of deaths from cancer were in the last three years of people who were (a) teetotallers, (b) moderate drinkers and (c) heavy drinkers. (59927)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause, in England and Wales, for 2007 to 2009 (the latest year available).

However, it is not possible to provide the specific information requested. Lifestyle and behavioural factors, such as the deceased's alcohol consumption, are not recorded in the death registration.

The number of deaths registered in England and Wales each year by sex, age, cause, marital status, and place of death are published annually on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15096

Table 1. Number of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[1, 2, 3]

	Deaths (persons)
2007	136,804
2008	137,831
2009	137,420

[1] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57617]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

Information about the Cabinet Office that is already in the public domain is published on data.gov.uk at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress he has made on encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60265]

Mr Maude: Further to the answer that I gave to the hon. Members for Stroud (Neil Carmichael) and for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) on 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1365W:

By the week commencing 6 June 2011, we had published 1,477 procurement opportunities on Contracts Finder, with registrations from 1,801 supplier organisations.

Opportunities suitable for SMEs are now being flagged on Contracts Finder.

The Cabinet Office has either published on Contracts Finder or is preparing for publication, 100% of tenders issued since September 2010 and contracts awarded since January 2011.

351 business proposals were submitted to the Innovation Launch Pad and have been evaluated. Those companies that submitted the top ideas will pitch their products to Government on 19 July.

On 3 June I published on the Cabinet Office website specific action plans from all Departments to facilitate SME access to their procurement requirements:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/small-and-medium-enterprise-sme-action-plans

The Crown Representative for SMEs, Stephen Allott, is working with Departments to plan a series of SME Product Surgeries, which will increase constructive engagement between SMEs and Government.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60684]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is responsible for the following directives in force on 1 April 2010:

Council directive 89/665/EEC of 21 December 1989 on the coordination of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of review procedures to the award of public supply and public works contracts;

Council directive 92/13/EEC of 25 February 1992 coordinating the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of community rules on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors;

Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors;

Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts.

Directives which have simply amended the above directives have not been included separately in the list.

The Cabinet Office is not responsible for any directives which have come into force since 1 April 2010.

Government Departments: Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that Government contractors pay invoices to any subsequent subcontractors on time. [60461]

Mr Maude: The Government are determined to do everything they can to help business manage cash flow and to transform the culture of late payment. We have a target for central Government Departments to pay 80% of valid invoices within five working days of receipt.

Since 25 March 2010, it has been mandatory for all Government Departments, agencies, non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) (and the bodies over which they have direct control) to include a contract condition requiring their prime contractors to pay their tier two suppliers within 30 days.

Furthermore, the Government's "Guide to best 'Fair Payment' practices", which applies to construction procurement, recommends best 'Fair Payment' principles and practices for adoption in the public sector:

www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Guide_to_Fair_Payment_Practices.pdf.

Life Expectancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy was of *(a)* people of Irish ethnicity and *(b)* the UK population calculated in (i) 1985, (ii) 1990, (iii) 1995, (iv) 2000, (v) 2005 and (vi) 2010. [60347]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, what the average life expectancy was of (a) people of Irish ethnicity and (b) the UK population calculated in (i) 1985, (ii) 1990, (iii) 1995, (iv) 2000, (v) 2005 and (vi) 2010. (60347)

The table below gives the average period life expectancy at birth for males and females in the United Kingdom and in Northern Ireland.

	United Kingdom life expectancy at birth		*Northern Ireland life expectancy at birth*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
1985	71.7	77.6	70.6	76.9
1990	72.9	78.4	72.1	78.0
1995	74.1	79.3	73.5	78.9
2000	75.3	80.1	74.8	79.8
2005	76.9	81.3	76.1	81.0
2010	78.5	82.4	77.6	82.2

The ONS does not produce life expectancy figures by ethnic group and so it is not possible to provide the average life expectancy of people of Irish ethnicity.

Life Expectancy: Older People

Alok Sharma: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy is for people aged 65 living in *(a)* Reading, *(b)* Berkshire and *(c)* England. [60984]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average life expectancy is for people aged 65 living in (a) Reading, (b) Berkshire and (c) England. (60984)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages and are available for all current administrative areas. Figures for the historic county of Berkshire are not available. Table 1, attached, therefore provides figures for all unitary authorities within Berkshire. Figures are for 2007-09, the latest period available.

Period life expectancies at birth and at age 65 for males and females in the UK, constituent countries, regions, counties, and local areas, from 1991-93 to 2007-09, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Table 1: Period life expectancy at age 65[1], unitary authorities within Berkshire, and England[2], 2007-09[3]

Area	*Years of life* Men	Women
England	18	21
Berkshire		
Reading UA	18	21
Bracknell Forest UA	19	22
Slough UA	19	21
West Berkshire UA	19	22
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	18	21
Wokingham UA	20	22

[1] Period life expectancy at age 65 is an estimate of the average number of years a 65 year old would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout the rest of his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a 65 year old living in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those currently living in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Three year rolling average, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

Minimum Wage

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2009. [60973]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 2009. (60973)

Estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are not available below the regional level of disaggregation. The table below gives the information requested for the North East and the UK in April 2009 and 2010. April 2010 is the latest period for which figures are available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage for the North East and the UK in April 2009 and April 2010

	2009		2010	
	Thousand	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
North East	**13	**1.2	**11	**1.2
UK	237	0.9	271	1.1

Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.
Key:
CV <= 5%
* CV >5% and <= 10%
** CV >10% and <= 20%
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics

Older Workers: Scotland

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the workforce in Scotland that is aged over 60. [60587]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the workforce in Scotland that is aged over 60 years. (060587)

The proportion of economically active people in Scotland aged 60 and over was 7.4 per cent, based on Annual Population Survey (APS) for the period October 2009 to September 2010, which is the latest period for which estimates are available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Third Sector

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1173W, on the third sector, on which dates the 29 meetings his Department has convened with hon. Members and their VCSE groups took place; and which *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* organisations were present at each meeting. [56627]

Mr Hurd: A full record of attendees at each meeting is not held centrally.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* market and *(b)* opinion research his Department has (i) conducted and (ii) commissioned on public expectations of Government in respect of provision of public services in the context of the Big Society. [60271]

Mr Hurd: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Nick Hurd to Bernard Jenkin:

The Government regularly takes account of a wide range of views from across society in respect of public services, including both users and providers. This information is gathered from a number of existing sources, including market and opinion research. However, no new research on this topic has been conducted or commissioned by the Cabinet Office since the formation of this Government.

The Open Public Services White Paper, due to be published this summer, will set out the Government's programme for public services over the next few years. The Government will consult and engage those who are or could be delivering public services about the best ways to achieve the Government's ambitions, and prioritise and pace its reforms to ensure that it balances the public's need for change with the capacity of public service providers to deliver any changes.

Unemployment

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average unemployment rate of the working age population in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK was in each year since 2008. [61035]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, asking what the average unemployment rate of the working age population in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK was in each year since 2008. (61035)

Table 1, attached, shows the unemployment rate of persons aged 16 to 64 resident in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK, based on the Annual Population Survey (APS). Figures have been provided for the 12 month periods ending December 2008, December 2009 and September 2010, the most recent period for which figures are available.

Table 1: Unemployment rate in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK

Percentage

12 months ending	*December 2008*	*December 2009*	*December 2010*
Jarrow	5.9	7.9	11.5
South Tyneside	7.2	12.7	13.3
North East	7.6	9.8	9.9
UK	5.8	7.8	7.8

Source:
Annual Population Survey

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (C) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 2008. [61036]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men, (b) women and (c) single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (C) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 2008. (61036)

Based on the Annual Population Survey (APS), Tables 1&2 show the information requested. Figures have been provided for the 12 month periods ending December 2008, December 2009 and September 2010, the most recent period for which figures are available. Figures for single parents are available only for 12 month periods ending in December 2008 and 2009. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

• National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Employment in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK

Thousand

	12 months ending								
	December 2008			*December 2009*			*September 2010*		
	Male	*Female*	*Single parent*	*Male*	*Female*	*Single parent*	*Male*	*Female*	*Single parent*
Jarrow	20	20	n/s	19	18	****n/s	***18	***19	[1]—
South Tyneside	34	32	3	33	31	***3	***32	***32	[1]—
North East	612	545	47	589	537	**50	*593	*542	[1]—
UK	16,764	13,452	1,068	15,421	13,374	*1,093	*15,423	*13,407	[1]—

n/s = Data has not been supplied as it has been classified as unreliable.

[1] Figures for single parents are only available for the 12 month periods ending in December.

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Unemployment in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK

Thousand

	12 months ending								
	December 2008			*December 2009*			*September 2010*		
	Male	*Female*	*Single parent*	*Male*	*Female*	*Single parent*	*Male*	*Female*	*Single parent*
Jarrow	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	****n/s	****n/s	****n/s	[1]—
South Tyneside	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s	****n/s	****n/s	****n/s	[1]—
North East	53	41	8	74	45	***9	**78	**45	[1]—
UK	1,027	738	140	1,448	939	*172	*1,459	*932	[1]—

n/s = data has not been supplied as it has been classified as unreliable.

[1] Figures for single parents are only available for the 12 month periods ending in December.

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

TREASURY

Bank Services

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on industry of the ending of fractional reserve banking. [31869]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Fractional reserve banking is a term to describe how the modern banking system operates. Fractional reserve banking means that only a fraction of banks deposits are backed by actual cash on hand and available for withdrawal. A non-fractional reserve banking system would operate on the basis that where a deposit was lodged in a bank, the bank would safeguard this deposit, usually by placing in a vault. It would do nothing with the money and would charge a fee for the service.

Banking capital requirement guidelines are set by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. In November 2010, G20 Leaders endorsed the "Basel III" reform package proposed by the Committee. The package will more than triple the amount of high quality capital banks will be required to hold, helping them to survive losses and continue to lend. Ending the fractional reserve banking system has not been considered as a viable policy option for the UK economy; no assessment of the likely effects on industry has been made.

Banks

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what requirements exist for banks to recognise deputies appointed by the Court of Protection; [41257]

(2) what requirements exist for banks to recognise the carers of disabled customers. [41258]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 16 February 2011]:* Under the Equality Act 2010, service providers, including high street banks, must make reasonable adjustments for disabled people in the way they deliver their services. This may include allowing the carer or the deputy to act for the disabled person. Service providers must not discriminate against disabled persons as to the terms on which they offer services, by not providing the service or subjecting the disabled person to any other detriment.

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking with his EU counterparts to reform the payment of child benefit to non-UK EU nationals whose children live outside the UK. [60950]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire (Stephen Barclay) on 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 444-45W.

Double Taxation: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 325W, on double taxation: Israel, what mechanisms are in place to exclude income and company tax raised in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories or Golan Heights from the benefits of the 1962 Double Taxation Convention. [60550]

Mr Gauke: Claims for the benefit of the double taxation convention from persons claiming to be resident in Israel are checked to ensure that their residential address is not within the Occupied Palestinian Territories or Golan Heights.

Economic Situation

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recent report by the IMF on the state of the UK economy. [60124]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* The International Monetary Fund (IMF) holds bilateral discussions with each of its member countries, usually every year, as part of its country surveillance function, under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement. IMF staff visited London in late May and early June and met with various institutions, including HM Treasury, to discuss issues relating to the economy. The IMF published the concluding statement for this Article IV consultation on 6 June. The IMF concluded that:

"The current settings of fiscal and monetary policy remain appropriate".

The concluding statement can be found on the IMF's website at:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/ms/2011/060611.htm

European Investment Bank: North Africa

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the proposals by the UN High Representative for Foreign Affairs for greater investment in North Africa from the European Investment Bank following recent political changes. [48335]

Mr Hoban: The proposals made by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs provided the European Council, meeting on 24-25 March with a sound basis for a thorough and detailed discussion of how the EU can best help the region following recent political turmoil.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the fuel duty derogation for those who refine less than 2,500 litres of biodiesel per year. [60644]

Justine Greening: The small producers' biofuel duty exemption was introduced in 2007 and continues to offer effective tax relief to low volume biofuel producers. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines.

Financial Policy Committee

Mr Darling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the conclusions were of the informal meeting of the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England held in May 2011; and if he will make a statement; [61000]

(2) what the schedule of meetings is of the Financial Policy Committee of the Bank of England; and if he will publish its minutes and proceedings after each meeting. [61001]

Mr Hoban: The informal meetings of the interim Financial Policy Committee (FPC) held in May 2011 were preparatory meetings for the formal interim FPC meeting held on 16 June 2011. A record of that meeting will be published on 24 June 2011.

The interim FPC will meet at least four times a year. The next formal meeting of the interim FPC will be held in September 2011; the date of the meeting will be published on 24 June, with the record of the meeting held on 16 June. A record will be published after each formal meeting.

Financial Services Authority

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what objectives he has set for the working forum of mutual trade bodies to input collectively into the policy formulation process of the Financial Services Authority; and if he will make a statement. [60217]

Mr Hoban: This is a matter for the Financial Services Authority and the members of the forum. I understand that the objectives for the forum will be agreed when it meets for the first time later this year.

Financial Services: City of London

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support the competitiveness of the City of London as a financial centre. [60164]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to a stable, predictable and competitive environment for financial services and one favourable to business more generally.

The Government have taken immediate action to restore tax competitiveness with a phased reduction in the main rate of corporation tax from 28% to 23% over the next four years. By 2014, and based on current plans, the UK will have the 5th lowest main rate in the G20 and will maintain its position as the lowest in the G7.

There are many factors which attract business to the UK—a robust and stable legal framework; high standards of transparency and accounting; excellent infrastructure; clustering benefits including associated business such as professional services; a deep and highly skilled talent pool; language; time zone; and quality of life.

Ensuring that London retains its position as the preeminent international financial centre is of critical importance to the UK economy. The UK is leading the argument in the EU and internationally for robust, internationally consistent regulatory standards that will benefit the economy and make the financial sector more stable. Strong regulation and effective supervision will increase investor confidence, supporting the competitive position of the city.

Financial Services: Taxation

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the amount of receipts from a tax on all cost conversions from one currency into another levied at *(a)* 0.005 per cent., *(b)* 0.05 per cent., *(c)* 0.5 per cent. and *(d)* 5 per cent. [60066]

Mr Hoban: There are many issues that need to be further explored around whether a currency transaction tax model offers a stable and efficient mechanism to raise revenue. These issues need to be resolved before the potential revenue could be forecast.

The UK Government believe a financial transactions tax would need to be applied globally to prevent the relocation of financial services and are willing to engage in further international discussions of such taxes.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* gross amount, *(c)* level 3 line item detail and *(d)* supplier was in respect of each transaction undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [59213]

Mr Gauke: Tables have been placed in the Library showing the spending by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) from the Government Procurement Cards (GPC) in 2008-09 and 2009-10. The tables list the dates of transactions, the amounts and the suppliers. VOA does not on the whole transact with suppliers with Level 3 detail transactions and any incidence of such transactions would be very small in relation to the overall number of transactions and therefore these data are only available at disproportionate cost.

The average annual spend is less than 0.05% of the VOA's overall spending.

Inflation

Ian Lavery: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of trends in the rate of inflation. [60518]

Justine Greening: The Government consider a range of factors when making their assessment of the UK economy. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published a full analysis of recent developments and the prospects for growth and inflation in their forecast at Budget, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which UK-based banks he received representations on financial assistance to Ireland. [60425]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

Monetary Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of quantitative easing on the cost of borrowing for small businesses and consumers. [48407]

Mr Hoban: The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England is operationally independent in setting monetary policy to meet the inflation target, including bank rate and the level of asset purchases under quantitative easing (QE). The MPC takes all relevant factors, including the cost of borrowing for businesses and consumers, into account in its assessment of the balance of risks to inflation in the medium term. The Bank's May 2009 Inflation Report explains how asset purchases work to stimulate nominal spending along various channels.

The Bank's analysis, for example in the Quarterly Bulletin 2011 Q1, is that QE has had a positive impact on spending by households and businesses.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many occasions he has met representatives of the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss proposals to extend the national insurance contributions holiday to existing businesses with up to four employees. [60556]

Mr Gauke: In advance of the Budget Treasury Ministers met with a number of representative bodies to discuss issues faced by small businesses. The Federation of Small Businesses was one such body.

Northern Rock plc

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with UK Financial Investments on the priority to be given to the commitment in the coalition agreement to foster diversity and promote mutuals in the banking industry when evaluating options for the return of Northern Rock to the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [60218]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UK Financial Institutions Ltd (UKFI) remit. UKFI has been looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and has been exploring options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition. UKFI will provide advice on the future of Northern Rock plc to the Chancellor, who will make the final decision.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer launched the sale process of Northern Rock plc on 15 June in his Mansion House speech. Any party, including mutuals are invited to enter a bid for Northern Rock. At this stage, all viable options, including remutualisation, remain available for further consideration; however, a sale is being explored as the first option.

The Government remain committed to promoting mutuals as outlined in the coalition document.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60094]

Justine Greening: The Government recognise the challenges of peak oil, including the analysis from leading energy organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA). HM Treasury engages actively with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on these matters.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to the Exchequer and *(b)* potential administrative savings arising from reform and simplification of the administration of IR35 in a 12-month period; and if he will make a statement. [60229]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made of the cost to the Exchequer, or the potential administrative savings arising from a change in the way HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) administer IR35. Following the recent review of the legislation by the Office of Tax Simplification, the Government announced their commitment to making clear improvements in the way IR35 is administered. HMRC has established the IR35 Forum to advise on possible changes and to monitor progress. Details about the IR35 Forum are available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consultations/ir35forum-home.htm

Taxation: Self-assessment

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has carried out into levels of satisfaction with assistance to persons contacting HMRC with queries about self-assessment. [58275]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has commissioned research from TNS-BMRB to measure the customer experience of dealing with HMRC. The survey has been running since 2008 and covers customer perceptions of a recent dealing relating to self-assessment.

The headline measure of customer experience is published quarterly on the HMRC website. A full report of HMRC and Line of Business results (2008-10) has also been published on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report108.pdf

UK Banks: Ireland

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the extent of the exposure of UK bonds to the banking and credit situation in the Republic of Ireland. [32133]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* A number of factors influence UK gilt yields and it is impossible to isolate the impact of any individual factor, including that of the banking and credit problems in the Republic of Ireland.

VAT: Channel Islands

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 590W, on VAT: Channel Islands, whether he is taking steps to control imports of beauty products from the Channel Islands ordered over the internet. [60151]

Mr Gauke: All commercial imports from outside the EU, including those of beauty products from the Channel Islands, will be subject to the new restrictions announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2011 Budget statement.

VAT: Tourism

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the likely effect on the UK economy of emulating the recent decision by the Irish Government to reduce the level of value added tax on services related to tourism to 9%. [60815]

Mr Gauke: There are no immediate plans to assess the cost to the economy of a reduced rate of VAT for visitor attractions, accommodation and restaurants.

All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

The Government are committed to supporting the tourism industry. A wide range of measures were announced, by the Department of Culture Media and Sports, in the Government's Tourism Policy in March 2011.

Working Tax Credits: Lone Parents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in the level of tax credits on the willingness of lone parents to *(a)* continue working and *(b)* enter work. [60343]

Mr Gauke: It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for work incentives, rather than particular aspects of the system in isolation, such as tax credits. Annex A of Budget 2011 provides information on work incentives under the current system, and how the Government's commitment to making work pay through universal credit will effect these.

The Government will clarify and increase work incentives by introducing the universal credit over the next two Parliaments. This will replace the current complex system of means-tested working age benefits with a new simple streamlined payment. It will strengthen work incentives—work will always pay and be seen to do so. The Department of Work and Pensions have set out proposals for the universal credit in a White Paper which they published on 11 of November 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/welfare-reform

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many lone parents in receipt of tax credits in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency will have the childcare element of such credits reduced as a result of changes to tax credits rules in 2011-12. [60351]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made.

The reduction in the child care element is part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the impact of an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the whole package of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the future levels of debt of lone parents of reductions to the childcare element of tax credits. [60431]

Mr Gauke: No assessment has been made of future levels of debt as a result of reductions to the child care element of working tax credit.

HMRC continue to monitor and forecast outstanding debt levels across all of tax credits. This includes the aggregate effect of the package announced at spending review 2010.

JUSTICE

Assets

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the monetary value was of confiscation orders made by courts in each year since 1995; [59906]

(2) how many confiscation orders were made by the courts in each year since 1995. [60106]

Mr Djanogly: Statistics on confiscation orders are only available from 2005 when a multi-government agency database was introduced to record details of all confiscation orders.

The monetary value and number of orders granted in England and Wales from 2005 to 2010 is as follows:

	Number of order granted	*Total value of orders granted (£ million)*
2005	3,454	132
2006	3,914	146
2007	4,639	224
2008	5,682	219
2009	5,602	174
2010	6,126	449

The orders made in 2010 include two separate orders each for £92.3 million.

Belmarsh Prison

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the category D prisoners in Belmarsh prison awaiting transfer to an open prison have been waiting for more than four weeks. [60168]

Mr Blunt: There are 24 Category D prisoners in Belmarsh, seven of whom have been waiting for a transfer to an open prison for more than four weeks.

Community Orders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what budget his Department has set for the two-year local payment by results schemes in Greater Manchester and London. [59901]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has set aside up to £15 million to support the introduction of payment by results over the next two years.

In the local financial incentive pilots payments to local partners in these schemes will be made if there is a reduction in demand for Ministry of Justice's services in Greater Manchester and the participating London boroughs.

The reduction in demand will lead to savings in Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service and the Legal Services Commission. The pilots have been designed so that these savings will be used to fund payments.

There will be evaluation costs for the pilots and these will be established following a competitive tendering process. These costs will be met from within the existing budget.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures of success his Department has set for the two-year local payment by results schemes in Greater Manchester and London. [59902]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice announced in the Green Paper, 'Breaking the Cycle', published in December 2010, that it will test a local approach to payment by results. The aim is to encourage local statutory partners to reduce crime and reoffending, and enable them to reinvest any savings that their success realises for the justice system in further activity to prevent reoffending in their communities. The pilots will be fully evaluated.

The evaluation will describe and explain what happened during the tests, what outcomes were observed across the criminal justice system, why these may have occurred, and what aspects of the schemes were successful. The evaluation will monitor reoffending and crime rates, as well as a wider range of criminal justice system data trends, in each local area. It will use a mix of qualitative and quantitative data.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which organisations have been appointed as national framework providers of Community Payback services. [60039]

Mr Blunt: Serco, Sodexo and com:pact (Mitie/A4e) were appointed to the national framework in August 2010.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to take steps to reduce the time between the sentencing of an offender and the commencement of that offender's Community Payback work placement. [60040]

Mr Blunt: In December the Government set out proposals for the reform of sentencing in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders". This was followed by a 12-week consultation period which closed on 4 March 2011, and I am pleased to say that we received over 1,200 responses. We are considering these responses, and will set out our more detailed plans in the Government's response to the consultation, which will be published shortly.

Compensation Orders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many compensation orders were made in England and Wales in each year since 1995; [60105]

(2) what the monetary value was of compensation orders issued in England and Wales in each year since 1995. [60150]

Mr Blunt: The number and total monetary value of compensation orders issued at all courts for all offences in England and Wales, 1995 to 2010, can be viewed in the table.

Number and total value of compensation[1] orders issued in all courts for all offences, 1995 to 2010[2]

	Number of orders made	*Total value of orders made (£)*
1995	96,643	34,717,065
1996	98,955	20,367,908
1997	102,291	20,734,386
1998	106,492	21,461,333
1999	106,437	23,701,391
2000	104,791	21,864,642
2001	106,907	22,146,854
2002	118,342	24,205,611
2003	126,216	42,052,647
2004	130,200	25,925,424
2005	138,206	37,178,796
2006	144,448	30,778,980
2007	214,486	35,100,634
2008	244,282	33,451,977
2009	157,410	44,496,659
2010	154,428	44,620,426

[1] Including compensation orders given as second, third and fourth disposals for principal offences.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Note:
Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Compensation: Young People

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many out-of-court disposals for young people have been issued in each year since 1995; [59911]

(2) how many out of court disposals of each type there were in each year since 1995. [60108]

Mr Djanogly: The number of out-of-court disposals for young people that have been issued, and the number of out of court disposals of each type in England and Wales for the years 1995 to 2010 can be viewed in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 shows penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and 17, and all ages, by offence in England and Wales 2004 (earliest available) to 2010 (latest available); and table 2 shows offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution for all offences aged 10 to 17 and all ages by offence type 1995 to 2010 (latest available).

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Table 1: Penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and 17, and all ages, by offence, England and Wales, 2004 to 2010[1]

Number issued

Offence description	*Ages 16 to 17* 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Higher tier offences (£80)							
Wasting police time	69	215	353	327	254	212	157
Misuse of public telecommunications system	6	24	79	106	88	45	53
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	8	6	15	15	7	9	7
Causing harassment, alarm or distress[2]	1,968	5,846	8,122	7,068	4,673	3,199	2,174
Throwing fireworks	20	90	101	102	82	57	55
Drunk and disorderly	1328	2,354	3,009	2,941	2;538	2,244	1,710
Criminal damage (under £500)[2]	103	1,408	2,866	2,796	1,815	1,241	659
Theft (retail under £200)[2]	167	1,806	3,861	4,474	4,040	3,817	2,682
Breach of fireworks curfew	0	4	7	3	3	0	2
Possession of category 4 firework	3	2	6	5	6	2	3
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	18	42	69	106	57	53	47
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[3]	0	2	1	1	2	2	0
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18[3]	0	0	5	1	2	4	1
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18	6	79	91	77	42	40	30
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18	4	20	45	51	33	22	18
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	3	21	17	13	10	15	4
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery	1	20	24	36	23	9	11
Possession of Cannabis	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	148	163
Lower tier offences (£50)							
Trespassing on a railway	17	73	256	291	257	240	196
Throwing stones at a train/railway	2	5	4	10	8	8	6
Drunk in a highway	31	103	149	106	57	31	13
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	20	56	136	172	126	87	31
Depositing and leaving litter	11	185	253	301	241	181	119
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	7	74	67	85	31	19	9
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	1	2	0	1	2	0	0
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[3]	0	17	62	158	100	52	42
Total							
Total higher tier offences	3,704	11,939	18,671	18,122	13,675	11,119	7,776
Total lower tier offences	89	515	927	1,124	822	618	416
Total all offences	3,793	12,454	19,598	19,246	14,497	11,737	8,192

Number issued

Offence description	*All years* 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Higher tier offences (£80)							
Wasting police time	1,171	2,525	3,933	3,966	3,443	3,109	2,852
Misuse of public telecommunications system	117	405	909	1,193	888	747	696
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	44	92	106	96	77	80	59
Causing harassment, alarm or distress[2]	28,790	64,007	82,235	77,827	57,773	43,338	32,317
Throwing fireworks	177	642	682	649	531	353	340
Drunk and disorderly	26,609	37,038	43,556	46,996	44,411	43,570	37,119
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	1,190	12,168	20,620	19,946	13,427	10,145	6,253
Theft (retail under £200)[2]	2,072	21,997	38,772	45,146	45,616	48,161	40,170
Breach of fireworks curfew	12	33	53	39	23	15	23
Possession of category 4 firework	12	13	28	22	23	56	22
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	20	47	76	106	67	59	61
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[3]	0	32	47	81	66	90	74
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18[3]	0	3	60	54	83	104	59
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18	113	2,058	3,195	3,583	2,824	3,002	2,098
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18	18	170	407	555	524	429	330

Number issued

Offence description	*All years* 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	66	83	60	64	50	46	33
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery	20	209	297	431	286	190	120
Possession of Cannabis	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	11,491	13,916
Lower tier offences (£50)							
Trespassing on a railway	96	220	1,042	1,527	1,468	1,552	1,454
Throwing stones at a train/railway	66	20	15	25	27	21	11
Drunk in a highway	2,497	3,138	2,712	2,066	1,438	999	758
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	485	712	1,061	1,544	1,761	1,596	1,036
Depositing and leaving litter	51	737	1,169	1,374	1,202	1,148	903
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	7	84	75	85	36	27	14
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises	6	27	14	11	6	4	3
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[3]	0	21	73	158	114	61	48
Total							
Total higher tier offences	60,431	141,522	195,036	200,754	170,112	164,985	136,542
Total lower tier offences	3,208	4,959	6,161	6,790	6,052	5,408	4,227
Total all offences	63,639	146,481	201,197	207,544	176,164	170,393	140,769

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Offence is a notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures.
[3] Offence is a recordable offence as of 1 December 2005. PND offence not introduced at this time. [4] Commenced from 26 January 2009.
Note:
PND (penalty notice for disorder) data are a count of all penalty notices for disorder issued during the year. Penalty notices for disorder came into force in November 2004.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1,2] aged 10 to 17, and all ages by offence type 1995 to 2010[3]

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Aged 10 to 17								
Reprimand/warning (all offences)	120,561	113,065	104,520	109,725	103,978	97,541	98,042	86,589
All ages								
Cautioned by offence type								
Violence against the person[4]	20,436	21,819	23,641	23,483	21,233	19,875	19,568	23,606
Sexual offences[5]	2,226	2,007	1,904	1,706	1,450	1,282	1,226	1,185
Burglary	10,463	10,154	9,407	8,372	7,689	6,601	6,396	5,771
Robbery	583	631	657	620	576	621	548	408
Theft and handling stolen goods	104,894	93,637	82,789	83,602	75,443	67,588	63,477	54,214
Fraud and forgery	7,879	7,502	7,156	7,402	7,205	6,180	5,764	5,335
Criminal damage	3,847	3,149	2,765	2,746	3,003	3,219	3,366	3,102
Drug offences	48,230	47,472	56,028	58,734	49,350	41,104	39,424	44,922
Other indictable offences[4,3]	4,023	4,440	5,012	5,059	4,630	4,429	4,161	4,389
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	88,662	95,387	92,734	96,170	95,553	88,088	85,930	82,426
Total	291,247	286,198	282,093	287,894	266,132	238,987	229,860	225,358

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Aged 10 to 17								
Reprimand/warning (all offences)	91,933	105,008	118,878	129,061	127,326	98,175	78,679	52,989
All ages								
Cautioned by offence type								
Violence against the person[4]	28,760	36,610	51,017	57,271	52,329	37,880	27,305	21,871
Sexual offences[5]	1,346	1,540	1,741	1,914	1,947	1,681	1,478	1,364
Burglary	5,568	5,604	6,451	7,687	6,972	5,407	4,398	3,484
Robbery	422	451	622	712	614	382	205	207

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Theft and handling stolen goods	54,466	61,944	67,619	72,369	72,790	64,047	60,730	47,538
Fraud and forgery	5,484	6,036	6,936	8,024	8,587	8,263	7,210	6,126
Criminal damage	3,726	5,495	7,246	9,018	8,813	7,873	6,419	5,075
Drug offences	45,707	32,621	34,390	37,426	43,050	47,038	43,808	40,721
Other indictable offences[4,5]	5,270	5,970	6,912	9,388	9,996	8,609	7,982	7,155
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	91,057	99,497	116,011	146,168	157,797	146,712	131,110	109,290
Aged 10 to 17	241,806	255,768	298,945	349,977	362,895	327,892	290,645	242,831

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.
[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Standardisation of offence groups—'concealment of birth', will be included in the offence group 'other indictable offences', moving from 'violence against the person'; changing the classification of an offence committed by approximately five defendants each year.
[5] Standardisation of offence groups—'bigamy', will be included in the offence group 'other indictable offences', moving from 'sexual offences', changing the classification of an offence committed by approximately 20 defendants each year.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Courts Cases

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown court were awaiting trial on 1 January of each year since 1995; [59907]

(2) how many cases *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* the Crown court received in each year since 1995. [60005]

Mr Djanogly: The total number of cases received by the Crown court and the number of trial cases outstanding at the end of year, in England and Wales, from 1995 to 2010 are provided in the following table.

Information on cases received and cases awaiting trial in the magistrates courts can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 2009 information on cases received is collected on central systems, but cannot be readily extracted and collated at the present time due to the way the data are held. The available statistics on magistrates court workloads relates to the number of criminal proceedings completed. Figures for all magistrates courts in England and Wales from 2008 to 2010 are also presented in the table. Statistics are not available prior to April 2007 on a comparable basis due to changes in the data collection method. Information regarding the number of cases awaiting trial is also not available since it is not collected centrally and could be obtained from court files only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1. Number of cases received and trials outstanding in the Crown court, and completed criminal proceedings in the magistrates courts, England and Wales, 1995 to 2010[6]

	Total number of cases received in the Crown court[1]	Total number of trial cases received in the Crown court[2]	Total number of trial cases outstanding at the end of each year	Total number of criminal proceedings completed in the magistrates courts[4,5]
1995	118,144	81,186	24,993	—
1996	114,311	83,328	25,048	—
1997	122,250	91,110	25,916	—
1998	121,867	75,815	23,853	—
1999	121,573	74,232	24,624	—
2000[3]	112,504	72,420	25,098	—
2001	120,023	81,968	29,686	—
2002	125,074	85,052	31,495	—
2003	126,390	84,944	32,279	—
2004	122,062	79,476	29,812	—
2005	124,313	79,214	33,246	—
2006	126,991	77,557	33,853	—
2007	136,434	82,881	33,987	—
2008	145,715	90,040	36,312	2,031,140
2009	150,711	97,707	39,898	1,912,632
2010[6]	150,666	96,927	36,363	1,797,348

[1] Receipts in the Crown court include committals direct from the magistrates court, bench warrants executed (trial and sentence only) and cases transferred in, less cases transferred out.
[2] Sent for trial cases under s51 CDA 1998 were introduced nationally on 15 January 2001 before this figures are from the pilot programme, resulting in an increase in the number of trials received in the Crown court in 2001.
[3] Crown court statistics before 2000 were obtained from CREST via our historical database.
[4] Criminal proceedings completed in the magistrates courts includes indictable only cases, triable either-way cases, summary motoring, summary non-motoring, youth proceeding and breaches. These figures are based on the number of completed proceedings.
[5] Magistrates courts changed their data collection systems from legacy systems to Libra during this time. Statistics are not available prior to April 2007 on a comparable basis due to changes in the data collection method, so figures for 2007 are not provided.
[6] The figures for 2010 are provisional; revised statistics will be published in 'Judicial and Court Statistics' on 30 June 2011.
Source:
HMCTS CREST system and Completed Proceedings, HMCTS Performance Database ('OPT')

Crown Courts

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases destined for the Crown court which involved the submission of a guilty plea received a reduction in the sentence handed down of *(a)* up to 10%, *(b)* up to 25% and *(c)* up to one third in each year since 1995. [59908]

Mr Blunt: Information about the extent to which sentences in individual cases are reduced by reason of a guilty plea is not recorded centrally.

The number of persons sentenced for indictable offences at the Crown court, broken down by plea, immediate custody and average sentence length, in England and Wales, 1995 to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in the spring of 2012.

Persons sentenced[1] for indictable offences at the Crown court: Plea[2], immediate custody and average sentence length, England and Wales, 1995 to 2010[3,4]

	Number of persons, percentages and average sentence length (months)								
	Total number sentenced			Immediate custody				Average length of sentence[5]	
	Guilty plea	Not guilty plea	Percentage pleading guilty	Guilty plea	Percentage of guilty pleas	Not guilty plea	Percentage of not guilty pleas	Guilty plea	Not guilty plea
1995[6]	25,860	5,870	81.5	14,418	55.8	3,839	65.4	19.3	33.5
1996	54,777	11,869	82.2	32,505	59.3	8,162	68.8	20.6	34.1
1997	59,207	11,592	83.6	34,727	58.7	8,163	70.4	21.1	36.6
1998	48,583	10,807	81.8	27,793	57.2	7,580	70.1	21.6	36.8
1999	44,578	10,226	81.3	26,447	59.3	7,262	71.0	22.5	38.1
2000	43,968	9,864	81.7	26,526	60.3	7,219	73.2	22.9	37.1
2001	43,941	9,765	81.8	26,420	60.1	7,033	72.0	24.4	38.9
2002	47,064	9,973	82.5	27,975	59.4	7,263	72.8	25.9	41.6
2003	47,627	9,297	83.7	27,013	56.7	6,550	70.5	26.2	44.4
2004	48,249	9,348	83.8	27,732	57.5	6,798	72.7	26.3	44.9
2005	46,844	8,700	84.3	26,545	56.7	6,173	71.0	26.0	43.3
2006	46,854	8,668	84.4	25,516	54.5	6,026	69.5	25.3	42.5
2007	52,667	8,723	85.8	28,718	54.5	5,822	66.7	24.2	42.2
2008	58,318	8,825	86.9	32,629	56.0	6,174	70.0	24.7	45.9
2009[7]	64,485	8,835	88.0	35,847	55.6	6,108	69.1	24.3	47.1
2010	69,896	9,471	88.1	36,697	52.5	6,346	67.0	24.3	46.8

[1] Excludes offenders convicted at magistrates courts and committed for sentence at the Crown court.
[2] Final plea recorded on completion of trial.
[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[6] Plea data are only available from 1 July 1995.
[7] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice. Ref: PQ 59908 (Table) (Data for 1995 to 2005 taken from 2005 sentencing publication Table 2.19, Data for 2006 to 2010 taken from sas run).

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in what proportion of cases destined for the Crown court a guilty plea was entered *(a)* after the announcement of a trial date and *(b)* at the door of the court in the latest period for which figures are available; [59909]

(2) what proportion of young people pleaded guilty on a first appearance in court in each year since 1995; [59912]

(3) how many cases in the Crown court ended in a guilty plea in each year since 1995. [60006]

Mr Djanogly: Of the Crown court cases listed for trial in 2010, around 39% ended on the trial date before the jury was sworn (no further trial time required) due to a defendant entering a late guilty plea or pleading guilty to an alternative charge which was accepted by the prosecution. Information on the proportion of Crown court cases listed for trial that resulted in a guilty plea being entered after the announcement of a trial date can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost as the announcement date is not held centrally.

The proportion of youth defendants who pleaded guilty at first hearing in the magistrates courts in England and Wales from 1995 to 2010 is shown in Table 1.

Table 2 contains the number of cases in the Crown court that ended in a guilty plea in each of the years from 1995 to 2010. A case is treated as a guilty plea only if pleas of guilty are recorded in respect of all defendants involved. A guilty plea is recorded when a defendant: (i) pleads guilty to all counts; (ii) pleads guilty to some counts and not guilty to others and no jury is sworn in respect of the not guilty counts; and (iii) pleads not

guilty to some or all counts but offers a guilty plea to alternatives which are accepted (providing no jury is sworn in respect of the other counts).

Table 1: Youth defendants pleading guilty at first hearing in the magistrates court, England and Wales, 1995 to 2010[1,2]

	Proportion of youth defendants where initial guilty plea given (%)
1995	24
1996	26
1997	24
1998	28
1999[3,4]	34
2000[5]	37
2001	38
2002	37
2003	39
2004	41
2005	44
2006	44
2007	46
2008	55
2009	57
2010	56

[1] From the June 2008 survey, the youth data is collected from the four-week sample via a web-based method of collecting TIS data called the One Performance Truth (OPT) (the pre-existing method of youth data collection has been available up until March 2009). Using this method has brought a number of improvements, including validation of the data 'live' as it is entered, collection of data at court level rather than clerkship level (as previously done).

[2] A youth defendant is classified as being aged 10 to 17 on the date when an offence was alleged to have been committed.

[3] From 1995 to 1998 data were collected based on the number of defendants appearing in either adult or youth courts. From 1999 onwards defendant details were collected specifically, therefore allowing the identification of youth cases listed in adult courts as well as those appearing in a youth court. As this may partly explain the increase in the proportion of those pleading guilty at the first hearing, caution should be applied when interpreting the figures shown in the table and comparing them with subsequent years' results.

[4] From 1995 to 1998, the results are based on completed criminal proceedings in one sample week in February, June and October. From 1999 onwards, information on youth defendants in all criminal completed proceedings was collected in a four week period.

[5] From the February 2000 survey, there is now one survey in each quarter. The results are now based on March, June, September and December surveys.

Source:
Time Intervals Survey (TIS)

Table 2: Number of cases[1] in the Crown court that ended in a guilty plea, England and Wales, 1995 to 2010[2,3,4,5]

	Number of guilty plea cases
1995	49,900
1996	48,600
1997	53,500
1998	41,900
1999	37,900
2000	37,000
2001[6]	36,700
2002	40,200
2003	41,900
2004	42,200
2005	41,600
2006	45,300
2007	50,700
2008	56,100
2009	61,900
2010	65,800

[1] Includes cases which can be heard in either a magistrates court or the Crown court (a defendant can elect to be tried in the Crown court or a magistrate can decide that a case is sufficiently serious that it should be dealt with in the Crown court); and cases sent for trial by the magistrates court because they can only be heard by the Crown court.

[2] The reporting period is defined by the date on which the defendants involved were dealt with.

[3] A guilty plea is recorded when a defendant: (i) pleads guilty to all counts; (ii) pleads guilty to some counts and not guilty to others and no jury is sworn in respect of the not guilty counts; and (iii) pleads not guilty to some or all counts but offers a guilty plea to alternatives which are accepted (providing no jury is sworn in respect of the other counts).

[4] A case is treated as a guilty plea only if pleas of guilty are recorded in respect of all defendants involved.

[5] The figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[6] Sent for trial cases under section 51 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 were introduced nationally on 15 January 2001.

Source:
HM Courts and Tribunals Service CREST system

Custody: Young People

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will initiate a review into the deaths in custody of five adults aged between 18 and 21 in the last four months; [60870]

(2) how many of the young adults who died in custody in the last four months received full mental health assessments while in custody; [60871]

(3) how many of the young adults who have died in custody in the last four months were being handled under the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork care planning system prior to their deaths. [60873]

Mr Blunt: Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers and the Ministry of Justice including the National Offender Management Service are committed to learning from such events in reducing the number of self-inflicted deaths in prison custody.

All deaths in prison are subject to a police investigation and an independent investigation by the prisons and probation ombudsman, and a coroner's inquest is held before a jury. Until these investigations are complete I am unable to comment on the detail of any of these cases.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he proposes any assessment of the effects of mixing young adults in custody with the adult prison population. [60872]

Mr Blunt: Young adults sentenced to detention in a young offender institution (DYOI) are detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These are normally self-contained but in some instances are situated within an adult prison with which they share the majority of their facilities. Whatever the location, young adults detained in YOIs have separate sleeping accommodation and are always managed in accordance with the YOI rules. My officials are monitoring any effects of co-locating young adults with the adult prison population.

Departmental Manpower

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff his Department and its agencies have recruited since May 2010. [59998]

Mr Blunt: Currently, a recruitment freeze is in place, which affects all external recruitment into the civil service, with exemptions allowed for business critical and frontline posts. The Fast Stream graduate programme is also exempt. For the period 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 the Ministry of Justice and its agencies, including the National Offender Management Service, recruited 3,272 new members of staff to frontline and business critical posts. In addition, 596 new members were recruited from other Government Departments.

The Ministry both recruits people in line with the Civil Service Commissioners recruitment principles and is committed to recruitment on merit through fair and open competition.

Departmental Pensions

Dr Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* office holders of his Department at each grade have pension pots (i) currently valued and (ii) projected to be valued on retirement at more than (A) £1 million and (B) £1.5 million. [59355]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has information in respect of cash equivalent transfer values (CETVs) for civil servants that are board members only. These are disclosed in the Remuneration Report in the annual Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts (of which a copy for the financial year 2009-10 can be found in the Library of the House and on the Ministry of Justice website). Projected values are not reported.

The Department does not hold information on CETVs for all its civil servants. This information can be obtained only by writing to the individual's Authorised Pension Administration Centre and obtaining this would involve disproportionate cost.

Drugs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated to mandatory drug testing in each year since 1995. [59887]

Mr Blunt: A recent costing exercise estimated that the cost to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) of mandatory drug testing (MDT) was approximately £5.3 million in 2010. This includes staff time to collect urine samples from prisoners and the laboratory costs for the analysis of those samples.

Similar estimates for other years between 1995 and 2011 have not been undertaken.

The figures presented in this answer have been collected from management information held centrally in NOMS, data returns from prison establishments, regional offices and/or fieldwork carried out as part of the costing programme. The accuracy of the data, which are not subject to audit, cannot be guaranteed.

Drugs: Alcoholic drinks

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research from *(a)* the UK and *(b)* abroad his Department has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the effectiveness of payment by results models in tackling drug and alcohol dependency. [59889]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

We are aware of other approaches to payment by results, such as in the United States and have considered the evidence and engaged colleagues.

Although tackling drugs and alcohol dependency is a challenging area in which to deliver payments by results, that does not mean we should not aim to make improvements for this group. This is exactly why we are piloting it and ensuring the detail is designed in partnership with the pilot areas.

The drug recovery payment by results programme of piloting will be subject to robust independent evaluation commissioned by the Department. A competitive tendering process for this is currently underway, closing on 21 June 2011, details available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prp-ccf

Drugs: Females

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to develop intensive community-based drug treatment options for women offenders. [59890]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are exploring how the provision of residential and other intensive treatment in the community can help those offenders with drug dependence or mental health problems. It is anticipated that a range of interventions will be required, varying in intensity, and would need to form part of a graduated response to what is provided in the community for different levels of need.

Drugs: Offences

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those serving custodial sentences had been convicted of offences related to drugs in each year since 1995. [60004]

Mr Blunt: Available information on the immediate custodial population as a proportion of those convicted of offences related to drugs in England and Wales from 1995 to 2010 (latest available) can be found in the tables.

These figures are taken from published tables within the Statistical bulletins 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics, England and Wales' for the years 1995-2009 and the 'Offender Management Statistics annual tables 2010', available via these links:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/
http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison under immediate custodial sentence and proportion serving a sentence for drug offences, England and Wales, 1995-2010

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Drug offences	4,256	5,755	7,174	7,893	8,169	8,473	9,148	10,067	10,330
Total population	38,863	42,914	48,674	52,159	51,293	53,093	54,169	57,272	59,393
Proportion (percentage)	11.0	13.4	14.7	15.1	15.9	16.0	16.9	17.6	17.4

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009[1]	2010
Drug offences	10,486	10,661	10,647	10,613	10,982	10,696	10,420	11,064
Total population	60,924	62,179	63,404	65,533	68,124	68,375	68,461	70,871
Proportion (percentage)	17.2	17.1	16.8	16.2	16.1	15.6	15.2	15.6

[1] Due to the introduction of a new prison IT system the 2010 prison population data is taken from a different source. The 2009 figures from both the old and new system have been presented to aid comparison.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from large administrative data systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Legal Costs

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of early intervention to prevent civil disputes about money and debt becoming matters for litigation. [59995]

Mr Djanogly: The Government's vision is for people to resolve their disputes at an early stage, ideally before entering the court process and before the costs of litigation escalate.

Early engagement is reflected in the rules of court, the Civil Procedure Rules, and in a range of pre-action protocols, which encourage early engagement and settlement where possible. Despite this, creditors often have to resort to court action because of a lack of debtor engagement for dealing with disputes including money, debt and other issues. Cases fall into the court system often for the wrong reasons, sometimes because people are unaware of alternatives or have not used the advice services that are available to help resolve disputes. To assist with resolving cases that have reached court without the need for further costs, county courts display notices giving the contact details of free advice providers.

The Ministry of Justice is currently consulting on a range of proposals for reforming the civil justice system, that include a greater role for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, as well as encouraging earlier settlement through a more robust pre-action procedure. The consultation closes on 30 June.

Life Imprisonment

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection in each year since 2003. [60002]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection in England and Wales, 2005 to 2010 can be viewed in the following table.

Sentences of imprisonment for public protection were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005. IPPs were therefore not available in 2003 and 2004.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody and the number of indeterminate sentences for all offences, England and Wales 2005-10

England and Wales

Persons given immediate custody and sentence length	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[1]	2010
All offences						
Total persons sentenced	1,473,275	1,412,940	1,406,788	1,353,937	1,398,278	1,357,600
Number given immediate custody	101,236	96,017	95,206	99,525	100,231	101,513
Percentage given immediate custody (%)	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.4	7.2	7.5
Indeterminate sentence[2]	426	1,448	1,707	1,538	1,001	1,019

[1] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

[2] Sentences of imprisonment for public protection introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 on 4 April 2005.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection have served the minimum term under their sentence; [60008]

(2) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection which were handed down before the implementation of changes introduced in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 have served the minimum term under their sentence; [60009]

(3) what the average minimum sentence handed down to prisoners given indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection was *(a)* before and *(b)* after the implementation of the changes introduced by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. [60012]

Mr Blunt: Based on data on 17 November 2010, the number of prisoners who are serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) and have passed their tariff expiry date is 3,174. The number of prisoners serving an IPP sentence who have not passed their tariff expiry date is 3,119. A further 41 prisoners were serving an IPP where their tariff expiry date is not yet recorded.

The number of prisoners serving an IPP sentence imposed before the implementation of the changes introduced in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (CJIA08), on 14 July 2008, and have passed their tariff expiry date is 3,026.

The average tariff length for IPPs imposed before and after the CJIA08 implementation is shown in the table.

	Average tariff (years)
Pre CJIA08 implementation	3
Post CJAI08 implementation	4

These data include prisoners serving an IPP sentence in prison and secure hospitals but exclude those who have been recalled to custody following release. The average length of tariff data included in the table does not include time served on remand.

National Offender Management Services: Managers

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Sodexo; [59986]

(2) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Reliance; [59988]

(3) how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Offender Management Service in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by Mitie. [59990]

Mr Blunt: The grading structure in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) differs from the rest of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The definition of grade C is different in each case. Senior Manager C in NOMS refers to a more senior responsibility level than a Band C in MOJ. The equivalent of a Senior Manager C within MOJ is Band A. It is this level for which information is supplied in the answer.

The number of senior managers (Bands A and above) that left the MOJ between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2011 was 348. The number of senior managers (Senior Manager C and above) that left NOMS during the same period was 109. Of these, 38 staff were operational grades.

The MOJ and NOMS do not keep records of employment taken up by former staff after they have left. NOMS is however aware that a small number of senior managers resigned in 2010 to take up posts in the private sector, including the Governors of Holloway, Whitemoor, Moorland and the Isle of Wight prisons. One former Director of Offender Management also took up an appointment with Sodexo in May 2011. There may have been others who joined private sector providers but there is no requirement for those leaving to advise the Department or agency of their future employment plans, save for any obligations under the Business Appointment Rules. These rules were applied in the appointment of the former Director of Offender Management with Sodexo.

Police Cautions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the outcomes of his Department's pilots on the availability of punitive conditions to police forces and prosecutors as part of a conditional caution. [59910]

Mr Blunt: The outcomes of the pilots are not yet available. We consulted on the availability of punitive conditions as part of the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle". We are considering the responses we received to the Green Paper consultation and will be publishing our plans shortly.

Prison Sentences: Methadone

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of persons in custody with sentences of *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months, *(d)* between one and two years, *(e)* between two and five years, *(f)* between five and 10 years *and (g)* 10 years and over were in receipt of methadone in the latest period for which figures are available; [59914]

(2) what proportion of those serving a custodial sentence were in receipt of methadone in each year since 1995. [60116]

Mr Blunt: The requested information on the proportion of persons in custody receiving methadone by length of sentence is not routinely collated and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by analysing prisoner records and disaggregating information which may be held on local data systems.

Data are available on the number of clinical drug interventions provided in prisons for drug dependency since 2007-08. There are no collated data prior to 2007.

In 2007-08, a total of 58,809 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these, 12,518 (21%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2008-09, a total of 64,767 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 19,632 (31%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.

In 2009-10, a total of 60,067 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 23,744 (39%) received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency of either methadone or buprenorphine.[1]

[1] NOMS Performance Data

Prisoners

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse of an adult prisoner in England and Wales was in the last 12 months. [59994]

Mr Blunt: For the purpose of this answer, an adult prisoner is taken to be a prisoner held in an "adult" establishment, i.e. any prison that is not a young offender institution (which hold prisoners up to age 21). The overall average resource cost per prisoner held in an adult establishment in England and Wales for 2009-10 is £39,000. The average resource cost per place is £43,000. This is the latest period for which figures are available. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

The costs represent the total cost per place/prisoner at each prison where the majority use at the end of each year was for adults. There is no adjustment for prisons holding prisoners both above and below age 21.

The overall average resource cost comprises the direct local establishment costs of public and private prisons, increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, or expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). Prisoner escort service costs are included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation number of places.

Prisoners' Release: Sexual Offences

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at what stage of the process of release on licence of a sexual offender to approved premises the relevant local authority is notified; at what stage a meeting of the local Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) team is convened; and at what stage MAPPA is statutorily required to *(a)* have a representative at relevant meetings and *(b)* conduct an assessment of the risk to local public safety posed by a given offender. [60997]

Mr Blunt: Section 325(2) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) requires the responsible authority in each area (the police, probation and prison services acting jointly) to make arrangements for assessing and managing the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders. Further to this, section 325(3) of the 2003 Act requires the responsible authority to act in co-operation with the persons specified in section 325(6), and requires those persons to co-operate with the responsible authority. The list of persons in section 325(6) includes local authority representatives.

The detail of these arrangements for risk assessment, risk management and co-operation is set out in guidance issued to responsible authorities by the Secretary of State under section 325(8) of the 2003 Act. Under this guidance, the risk posed by sexual offenders must be assessed, and a MAPPA meeting convened, at least six months before the offender is due to be released on licence. Where release to an approved premises, or to local authority accommodation, is being considered, the responsible authority will invite the relevant local authority representatives to the initial MAPPA meeting and to subsequent review meetings.

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements teams make the appropriate arrangements with regard to placement of sexual offenders in approved premises. [60998]

Mr Blunt: The decision to place a sexual offender in approved premises is taken by the Probation Trust which has statutory responsibility for supervising the offender, in consultation with the other local agencies involved in MAPPA and the manager of the relevant approved premises. The primary consideration is whether the risk of harm posed by the offender to others would be most effectively managed by the enhanced supervision provided in an approved premises. The decision to admit an offender to a particular approved premises is based upon an assessment of the risk of serious harm posed by the offender to the public, victims, and other residents or staff.

The Probation Trust may also ask for particular licence conditions to be imposed, in the case of a determinate sentence prisoner from the governor of the releasing prison and in the case of an indeterminate sentence prisoner from the Parole Board. Such licence conditions might include a requirement to comply with electronic monitoring and a requirement to stay away from specified places.

For the majority of sexual offenders who have served the custodial part of their sentence and have to be released into the community, it is better in public protection terms that they are placed in an approved premises immediately on release from custody rather than in other less suitable accommodation in the community, which is the only alternative.

Prisoners: Drugs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners subject to random mandatory drug testing tested positive in *(a)* each year from 1995 to 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [59920]

Mr Blunt: Mandatory drug testing (MDT) records held centrally are anonymous. For this reason data relating to the proportion of prisoners testing positive is not available. Available instead is the proportion of MDT samples that have tested positive.

The following table gives the percentage of random MDT samples that have tested positive in each financial year since 1995.

Random mandatory drug testing 1995 to 2011 by financial year

	Percentage of samples testing positive
1995-96	31.7
1996-97	24.4
1997-98	20.8
1998-99	18.1
1999-2000	14.4
2000-01	12.2
2001-02	11.5
2002-03	11.7
2003-04	12.5
2004-05	11.8
2005-06	10.3
2006-07	8.8
2007-08	9.1
2008-09	7.7
2009-10	7.8

From 1 April 2009 buprenorphine was added to the standard panel of drugs tested for under MDT. This explains the slight increase in overall positive rates in 2009-10.

Data for 2010-11 will be published in July 2011 as part of the National Offender Management Service annual report for 2010-11.

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated to employment and learning services for prisoners in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated for such purposes in each year between 1995 and 2010. [59891]

Mr Blunt: Education services for prisoners[1] are funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), devolved to the Skills Funding Agency, formerly the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

[1] Offenders aged 18 and over.

The Learning and Skills Council assumed responsibility for planning and funding the integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in England on 31 July 2006. OLASS funds the delivery of skills for offenders (aged 18 and over) held in English Public Sector prisons for both sentenced prisoners and those held on remand.

In Wales, from April 2006, commissioning responsibilities for offender learning and skills provision became the responsibility of Director of Offender Management in Wales. Responsibilities for learning and skills provision for those in custody in Wales transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government with effect from 1 April 2009.

Data are available on spend since 2001. Table 1 includes spend directly relating to the OLASS provision and also spend associated with the employment of Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons, Libraries and Higher Education in public sector prisons in England and Wales:

Table 1

	Total spend (£ million)
2001-02	57
2002-03	73
2003-04	116
2004-05	126
2005-06	151
2006-07	156
2007-08	161
2008-09	171
2009-10	181

Over the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period, allocations are as follows:

Table 2 includes spend directly relating to the OLASS provision and also spend associated with the employment of Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons, Libraries and Higher Education in public sector prisons in England and Wales:

Table 2

£ million

	Total spend in England	*Total spend in Wales—funded by the Welsh Government*
2010-11	171	2.3
2011-12	172	2.4
2012-13	[1]170	[1]2.4

[1] Indicative.

Allocations beyond 2012-13 have yet to be confirmed.

£34 million of the growth between 2005-06 and 2010-11 (inclusive) was as a result of additional education allocations to support the places flowing from the prison capacity programme.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) provides both physical resources and staff to support educational activities and employment support for prisoners. Some employment support is delivered in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions. It is not possible to separately identify these costs which are not held centrally.

Training for prisoners is undertaken, mainly by Prison Service staff, while prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. The central costs of the training elements of these, mainly production functions, are not kept centrally.

NOMS gained co-financing organisation status in January 2009 and successfully bid for a total of £50 million of European Social Funding to enhance the skills and employment services to offenders in prison and the community. NOMS has been granted the funding over 27 months to increase offenders' employability and improve their access to mainstream support provision. Funding has been extended into a second phase up to 2013.

Prisons: Drugs

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated to tackle drug addiction on the prison estate in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated for such purposes in each year since 1995. [59888]

Mr Blunt: From April 2011, the Department of Health assumed responsibility for funding all drug treatment in prisons in England. They are providing £69.4 million[1] of prison funding previously allocated by the Ministry of Justice and £44.5 million from their Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) budget in each of the three years of the comprehensive spending review period (2011-14).

Drug treatment funding allocated to prisons from 1999-2000 to 2010-11 is shown in the following table. Information from 1995-99 is not centrally available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Funding allocated to prisons in England and Wales for drug treatment

£ million

1999-2000[2]	12.6
2000-01	16.5
2001-02	27.3
2002-03	28.7
2003-04	37.7

Funding allocated to prisons in England and Wales for drug treatment

	£ million
2004-05	51.1
2005-06	60.7
2006-07	78.1
2007-08	79.8
2008-09[3]	67.8
2009-10	69.6
2010-11	71.4

[1] This includes £63 million for adult prisons and £6.4 million for young people's secure settings.
[2] Figures from 1999-2000 to 2007-08 include CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service), YPSMS (Young People's Substance Misuse Services) and intensive drug rehabilitation programmes as well as funding from the Department of Health for clinical interventions (detoxification and maintenance prescribing).
[3] Figures from 2008-09 to 2010-11 exclude Department of Health funding for clinical interventions.

Probation Trusts

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department and its predecessor spent on probation trusts in each year since 1995; [60003]

(2) what budget he has set for each probation trust in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [60007]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

Financial period 1995-96 to 2000-01

Prior to 2001-02, local probation committees were financed partly by local government under a different financial regime. NOMS are therefore unable to answer this element of the question.

Financial period 2001-02 to 2009-10

Probation Trusts have only been in existence since April 2008, following the implementation of the Offender Management Act 2007.

The following table has been compiled to illustrate the costs of probation boards/trusts over the 2001 to 2010 financial period using the annual net operating costs.

		£ million
Financial year	*Boards and Trusts expenditure*	*Trusts included in expenditure*
2009-10	899	194
2008-09	897	112
2007-08	845	—
2006-07	807	—
2005-06	770	—
2004-05	687	—
2003-04	674	—
2002-03	605	—
2001-02	576	—

Notes:
1. The figures for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08 are the net operating costs recorded in the annual consolidated accounts of local probation boards. These accounts are available from the House Library.
2. The figures for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are taken from the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency annual accounts and supporting data.
3. Following standard accounting practice, local boards and trusts pension contributions are not fully reflected in the figures.
4. Expenditure on probation met centrally by the National Probation Directorate (as was) and the National Offender Management Service is not included in local areas' expenditure.
5. Comparisons over time are difficult due to changes in accounting methodology.

Financial Year 2010-11

Data for 2010-11 are not yet available as financial accounts for the 2010-11 have yet to be finalised.

Comprehensive Spending Review Period Year 2011-12

The following table sets out the contract values for financial year 2011-12 as agreed with each Probation Trust. These individual contract values may vary through the year but are as stated at the beginning of the financial year. There are some probation costs for specific offender related initiatives not embedded in the contracts and therefore excluded from the following table.

	£
Avon and Somerset	19,333,606
Bedfordshire	8,961,763
Cambridgeshire	9,477,363
Cheshire	14,128,825
Cumbria	8,044,553
Derbyshire	12,660,000
Devon and Cornwall	18,238,328
Dorset	8,456,415
Durham and Teesside	21,753,119
Essex	18,606,086
Gloucestershire	7,015,050
Greater Manchester	47,931,520
Hampshire	23,019,664
Hertfordshire	10,909,353
Humberside	15,730,000
Kent	19,483,690
Lancashire	23,061,088
Leicestershire	14,020,000
Lincolnshire	8,851,000
London	137,512,000
Merseyside	28,845,962
Norfolk and Suffolk	19,101,436
North Yorkshire	9,445,000
Northamptonshire	8,642,000
Northumbria	27,786,481
Nottinghamshire	18,018,000
South Yorkshire	23,589,000
Staffs/West Midlands	68,626,000
Surrey and Sussex	25,109,812
Thames Valley	24,602,317
Wales	52,297,000
Warwickshire	6,562,000
West Mercia	14,336,000
West Yorkshire	38,385,000
Wiltshire	6,932,312
Total	819,471,743

Comprehensive Spending Review Period: 2012 to 2015

Given the demanding settlement the Department received we are continuing to finalise our savings plans for the remainder of the SR period, and as a result detailed budgets for individual trusts are not yet available.

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what output measures his Department will use to assess the performance of probation trusts over the comprehensive spending review period. [59903]

Mr Blunt: Orders or Licences Successfully Completed, Employment at Termination and Accommodation at Termination are the output measures which currently form part of the data-driven performance assessment of

probation trusts. These output indicators complement a range of measures in the Probation Trust Rating System (PTRS), including the key outcome Reducing Reoffending, quality measures from HMI Probation and engagement indicators such as Offender Feedback and Victim Feedback.

In addition to the measures in the formal performance assessment, the probation contracts contain a number of targeted output measures including Sustained Employment, Education Awards, Sex Offender Treatment Programmes Completions, Domestic Violence Completions, Offending Behaviour Programme Completions, Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Completions, Alcohol Treatment Requirement Completions and Community Payback Completions among other measures used for assurance purposes.

There is an annual cycle of review on measures, targets and the contents of the PTRS model. In line with this Government's policy direction the review is focused to be less prescriptive with the aim of reducing the burden of data collection on the front line. The introduction of Payment By Results (PBR) will be reflected in the future performance framework.

Rehabilitation and Treatment of Offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding for the rehabilitation and treatment of offenders was contributed to his Department's programme by the *(a)* Department for Education and its predecessors, *(b)* Department of Health, *(c)* Department for Work and Pensions and its predecessors and *(d)* Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors in each year since 1995. [59892]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the contribution by other Government Departments for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders. It does hold information on income received from the Departments specified, but this may not be for rehabilitation or treatment and would only be part of the funding by those Departments. Most of the funding by those Departments will be made to service providers outside of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) who provide services to offenders on behalf of their respective Departments.

Remand in Custody

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people held on remand in 2010 *(a)* were subsequently acquitted, *(b)* received a community sentence and *(c)* received a custodial sentence. [59913]

Mr Blunt: Defendants remanded at the magistrates and Crown courts, and outcome of proceedings in 2010, can be viewed in the tables as follows.

Defendants remanded in custody by magistrates and outcome of proceedings[1], 2010[2], England and Wales

Outcome	*Remanded in custody by magistrates[3]*
Acquitted or not proceeded etc.	7.2
Convicted:	
Discharge	1.5
Fine	2.3
Community sentence[4]	3.7
Suspended sentence	1.7
Immediate custody[5]	8.5
Otherwise dealt with[6]	1.7
Total number sentenced	19.4
Committed for sentence:	
on bail	0.5
in custody	5.1
Committed for trial:	
on bail	2.6
in custody	22.9
Total	58.3

[1] Committal cases where the remand status is not recorded are excluded from the breakdown, but included in the totals.
[2] Data for 2010 are estimated.
[3] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.
[4] Includes community rehabilitation orders, supervision orders, community punishment orders, attendance centre orders, community punishment and rehabilitation orders, curfew orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and detention and training orders.
[5] Includes detention and training orders and unsuspended imprisonment.
[6] Includes one day in police cells, disqualification order, restraining order, confiscation order, travel restriction order, disqualification from driving, ASBO and recommendation for deportation and other disposals.
Note:
Some figures may not sum due to rounding.

Defendants remanded at the Crown court[1] before trial or sentence, and outcome of proceedings, 2010, England and Wales

	Remanded in custody[2]	
Outcome	*Committed for trial*	*Committed for sentence*
Acquitted or not proceeded etc.	4.7	0.0
Convicted:		
Discharge	0.2	0.0
Fine	0.0	0.0
Community sentence[3]	2.0	0.7
Fully suspended sentence	1.9	0.8
Immediate custody[4]	25.9	5.5
Otherwise dealt with[5]	0.7	0.3
Total number sentenced	30.7	7.4
Failed to appear	0.2	0.0
Total	35.6	7.4

[1] Crown court cases are not necessarily concluded in the same year as the committal.
[2] Includes those remanded for part of the time in custody and part on bail.
[3] Community rehabilitation orders, supervision orders, community punishment orders, attendance centre orders, community punishment and rehabilitation orders, curfew orders, reparation orders, action plan orders and drug treatment and testing orders.
[4] Includes detention in a young offender institution, detention and training orders and unsuspended imprisonment.
[5] Includes one day in police cells, disqualification order, restraining order, confiscation order, travel restriction order, disqualification from driving, ASBO and recommendation for deportation and other disposals.
Note:
Some figures may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Young Offenders

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for future provision for young adult offenders aged *(a)* 18 to 21 and *(b)* 18 to 24 following the implementation of proposed changes to the functions of the Youth Justice Board. [59943]

Mr Blunt: The Government have decided to abolish the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and deliver its main functions from a newly created youth justice division within the Ministry of Justice. These functions include the oversight of youth offending teams, disseminating effective practice, commissioning a distinct secure estate and placing young people in custody. The YJB is responsible for offenders aged under 18 so its abolition will not impact on provision for young adult offenders.

Young Offenders: Alternatives to Prison

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1362W, on young offenders: alternatives to prison, if he will place in the Library a copy of the interim process evaluations of the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilot schemes in *(a)* Dyfed-Powys, *(b)* Humberside, *(c)* Merseyside, *(d)* South Wales and *(e)* West Yorkshire; [59979]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1362W, on young offenders: alternatives to prison, which of the probation trusts which were piloting the Intensive Alternative to Custody prior to 31 March 2011 have now made that provision mainstream; [60109]

(3) what the name is of each pilot of intensive community orders in England and Wales; when he expects each to come to an end; and when he expects to have evaluated the findings from each pilot. [59904]

Mr Blunt: The Intensive Alternative to Custody (IAC) pilot schemes in Dyfed-Powys, Humberside, Merseyside, South Wales and West Yorkshire were evaluated together. There was no formal interim evaluation. The final report of the five-area process evaluation is currently being prepared for publication.

In respect of the probation trusts which were piloting the IAC schemes before 31 March 2011 I can provide the following update about whether the provision of IAC has been mainstreamed:

the Wales Probation Trust has mainstreamed IAC provision across Wales;

Manchester Probation Trust has mainstreamed IAC provision in Manchester and Salford;

Humberside Probation Trust has mainstreamed IAC across all the adult court sites in Humberside;

Merseyside Probation Trust continues to offer IAC in Liverpool and there are plans to expand provision during the next year;

in Derbyshire, learning from the IAC pilot has been used to develop an Intensive Community order (ICO), which has been offered to courts across Derbyshire from May 2011 as a sentencing option targeted at those offenders at risk of being sentenced to short custodial terms; and

West Yorkshire Probation Trust has continued to offer IAC in Bradford and Leeds, and is planning to mainstream IAC across all the remaining three districts in West Yorkshire: Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield.

The name of the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilots were as follows:

Manchester IAC;

Merseyside IAC;

West Yorkshire IAC;

Humberside IAC;

Wales IAC (although these were initially called Intensive Supervision and Control (ISAC)); and

Derbyshire IAC (now re-branded as Intensive Community Order (ICO)).

All IAC pilot schemes came to an end in March 2011.

The five area pilot process evaluation and findings from the Derbyshire and Manchester IAC pilot schemes are being prepared for publication. A summary of general findings across all seven of these IAC pilots is to be published in July.

The MOJ are exploring the possibility of conducting an evaluation of the IAC pilots which will compare reoffending rates for all IAC offenders with reoffending rates for similar offenders receiving custodial sentences of less than 12 months.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W, on apprenticeships, how many employer places are registered on the National Apprenticeship Service matching service; and how many applicants have been deemed unsuitable for places. [59666]

Mr Hayes: Apprenticeship vacancies (on-line system) data show that employers posted 58,870 apprenticeship vacancies between 1 August 2010 and 31 May. There were 9,500 live apprenticeship vacancies as at 1 June. Information on the number of applicants deemed unsuitable for an apprenticeship vacancy is not available.

Apprenticeship vacancy reports are updated on a monthly basis and published on the fourth day of each calendar month at the following link:

http://mireportslibrary.thedataservice.org.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship_vacancy_reports/

Data provided in the answer of 7 June, *Official Report*, column 216W, have been updated and is provided in the following tables covering the same time period as the above information. Table 1 shows the number of individuals who have activated their account on the system between August 2010 and May 2011. Table 2 shows the overall number of applications submitted between August 2010 and May 2011.

Table 1: Total number of individuals activating their account on Apprenticeship Vacancies, August 2010 to May 2011

	Individuals activating Apprenticeship Vacancy Account
16-18	185,130
19-24	118,520
25+	51,110
Total	354,760

Table 2: Total number of Programme Applications made by age group, August 2010 to May 2011

	Total number of Programme Applications
16-18	313,660
19-24	152,710
25+	24,680
Total	491,050

Notes:
1. Figures for programme applications do not indicate individuals who have made applications, they are the total number of applications made and it is important to note that any one individual can make more than one application at any given time.
2. Figures in table 1 are the latest year to date data, from 1 August 2010 up to 30 April.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Apprenticeship Vacancy Reports

Apprenticeship places are secured through a range of sources. Between August 2010 and January 2011 there were 213,400[1] apprenticeship starts in England.

[1] Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statistical firstrelease/sfr_current

Banks: Loans

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether HSBC Holdings plc are subject to the Project Merlin agreement that bankers' remuneration would be linked to lending targets; [61063]

(2) who signed the Project Merlin agreement on behalf of the banks; [61064]

(3) which individuals are subject to the Project Merlin agreement that bankers' remuneration would be linked to lending targets. [61065]

Mr Prisk: The Merlin commitment to lending has been made by Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Santander.

Lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be part of the performance metrics of each bank's chief executive and those of the senior managers responsible for business lending.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has written to each of the bank's chairman to ask them to explain clearly how their incentives for senior managers are linked to SME lending.

Business

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people representing small and medium-sized businesses located in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* Tamworth constituency (i) he, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have met in the last 12 months. [59976]

Mr Prisk: BIS Ministers and officials regularly engage with organisations and individuals representing small and medium sized enterprises from across the UK. This includes regular meetings of the Entrepreneurs' Forum, chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, and the Small Business Economic Forum, which I chair. All meetings that BIS Ministers have with external organisations are published quarterly at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff

with data currently available up until December 2010.

As the lead on local enterprise partnership (LEPs) policy, I am meeting all LEPs which include representatives of small and medium sized businesses across England. To date I have met with 21 partnerships and am due to meet with the Stoke and Staffordshire LEP at the beginning of July. BIS Local West Midlands also have regular engagement with representatives of small and medium businesses in Staffordshire as part of their day to day working.

Business: Industrial Health and Safety

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the administrative requirements on businesses arising from health and safety legislation; and if he will make a statement; [58862]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the administrative burden of health and safety regulations on the priority given by businesses to *(a)* compliance with legislation and *(b)* the implementation of effective health and safety measures; and if he will make a statement; [58871]

(3) if his Department will assess the merits of implementing the recommendation of the Davidson Review that the Health and Safety Executive should exempt the self-employed from certain health and safety legislation in low-risk sectors. [58872]

Mr Prisk: The Department has an established working relationship with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and I am delighted that this Government are implementing the recommendations from Lord Young's recent review of HSE in the UK. As these questions suggest, there are a number of ideas in circulation about how the UK's HSE regime could be still further improved in ways that reduce the costs and burdens to business. I will be very interested to see the impact of proposals developed by the Ministry of Justice to tackle the "litigation culture", in the wake of Lord Justice Jackson's consideration of the "no win, no fee" conditional fee arrangements (November 2010). In addition, there is a current independent review commissioned by the Minister of State, Departmental for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling), who has responsibility for employment of HSE legislation which is being undertaken by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt, Director of the Centre for Risk Management at King's College, London. I also look forward to hearing the views of business and other stakeholders when the Red Tape Challenge turns its attention to HSE at the end of June.

Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration he has given to *(a)* including in the Green Economy Roadmap a commitment to (i) measure and (ii) reduce the UK's total carbon footprint and *(b)* the reckoning in the calculation of that footprint of (A) emissions from consumption and (B) outsourced emissions embedded in imports. [57700]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 7 June 2011]:* The Green Economy Roadmap is designed to provide businesses with clarity about the transition to a lower carbon economy and how it affects them; it is not the appropriate vehicle for assessing the UK's total carbon footprint or weighting contributions to that footprint. The Government will continue to monitor emissions according to current standards.

Companies: North West England

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of financial support received by companies in the North West through the Regional Growth Fund. [59063]

Mr Prisk: Details of bids from round 1 of the Regional Growth Fund and conditional offers made, remain commercially confidential until the process of due diligence is completed.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60179]

Mr Prisk: The Department is committed to supporting the Government-wide initiatives set out at the small and medium enterprises (SME) strategic supplier summit on 11 February 2011, notably the launch of Contracts Finder the Government portal for tendering opportunities over £10,000. The portal is entirely free, online service enabling small businesses to search for, and receive free e-mail alerts of public sector contract opportunities. The full list of measures can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/government-opens-contracts-small-business.

In addition to working to implement these initiatives, BIS has agreed with Cabinet Office a further set of actions - such as providing notification of its tendering requirements in advance by use of a Prior Information Notice for Official Journal of the European Union procurements or similar to provide a greater degree of notice to the market, enabling SMEs to be better placed to bid for government contracts. Full details are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/procurement

To help small businesses build skills and capacity and support SMEs access public procurement opportunities, BIS has designed (with input from across both the public and private sectors) a free on-line public procurement training course 'Winning the Contract' available on the businesslink website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/winningthecontract.

Additionally, following the closure of the previous Government procurement portal "Supply2.gov", and to enable small businesses to freely download, analyse and gain a better understanding of what, and how Government buys, BIS has made available all Government historical contract data (published on the site, from 2006 to 2011), on its transparency page at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/supply2gov.

Education: Carers

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with carers organisations on steps to ensure that carers receive equal opportunities to access further or higher education by *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time mode; and if he will make a statement. [58988]

Mr Hayes: This Government have been very clear about the importance of widening participation and improving access to further and higher education. Adult carers have been given consideration as part of the enhancements to adult learner support for students in further education. Representative bodies were invited to discussions earlier this year to help formulate the policy. Carers are eligible to apply for learner support funds as appropriate and this will remain the case for 2011-12.

In higher education we are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation. Higher education institutions will be encouraged to identify candidates with the ability and potential to succeed, offering those that might need extra support the appropriate assistance. For full-time students in higher education a comprehensive package of grants and loans is available through the student finance system, with extra support for students with adult or child dependants in the form of an 'Adult Dependants' Grant, Childcare Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance. From 2012-13 eligible new part-time students will not pay upfront tuition charges and will be able to access loans in order to pay for their tuition, as is the case for full-time students.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what EU directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what EU directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60729]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The stock of EU legislation in force is set out in the Eur-Lex database:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would be of disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation were currently the responsibility of BIS or its predecessor Departments.

There are a number of directives, which have come into force since 1 April 2010, for which the Department has responsibility. The directives are of varying natures and implications and I will write separately providing a detailed list.

EU Law: Economic Growth

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he plans to use to assess any recommendations resulting from the work with Government undertaken by GSK, Balfour Beatty, Kingfisher and Tribeka Limited to consider the effect of EU legislation on UK growth opportunities. [59525]

Mr Prisk: As announced in Budget 2011, the Government are working with four companies, Balfour Beatty, GSK, Kingfisher and Tribeka Ltd, to find ways to improve European growth opportunities for UK businesses. All four companies will have the opportunity to contribute equally to this work and each company will be given equal weight.

Central to the Government's assessment of specific contributions will be the extent to which they illustrate opportunities and problems for the wider sector from which they are drawn so that the evidence provided can be used for the broadest possible positive impact on the UK economy.

Fees and Charges: Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice his Department has received on the entitlements of EU students to *(a)* fee waivers, *(b)* fee discounts and *(c)* the National Scholarship Programme; and if he will make a statement. [60868]

Mr Willetts: Legal advice obtained by the Department is confidential and the subject of legal professional privilege.

It will be for universities themselves, as autonomous institutions, to obtain their own legal advice to ensure that their provision in respect of fee waivers and fee discounts conforms to current legislation.

Foreign Students

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens who attended university in *(a)* EU countries and *(b)* the US in the last academic year for which figures are available. [60899]

Mr Willetts: In 2008, it is estimated that 24,750 UK students were enrolled at institutions outside the UK, and studying for a degree awarded by an overseas institution. Of these, an estimated 10,250 UK students were studying in EU-27 countries, and 8,400 were estimated to be studying in the USA. These figures exclude students who undertake short-term exchange programmes as part of their UK degree.

Source:

OECD online database and Eurostat online database.

Please note, there is no common basis for the collection of data on 'foreign/mobile' students—countries use one or more of the following classification criteria:

citizenship;

usual/permanent residence; and

country of prior education.

Each method has its own strengths and weaknesses but they will give different results in each country, so the figures quoted above need to be treated with caution. BIS-commissioned research concluded that OECD data tend to over-estimate the true number of diploma-mobile students by up to 10%.

Green Investment Bank

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of potential locations on the proposed location of the Green Investment Bank. [60974]

Mr Prisk: I met the Secretary of State for Scotland on 5 April and representatives from the Edinburgh Green Investment Bank Group on 30 March, both at their request.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* columns 645-46W, on higher education: admissions, how many UK-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers at UK higher education institutions who previously attended (i) maintained schools and (ii) sixth-form colleges achieved each degree classification in the academic year 2009-10. [60245]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* Data on previous school type are available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and cover state schools, independent schools, FE institutions, HE institutions and those with unknown or missing information. They do not identify separately those who attended maintained schools and sixth-form colleges.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what information his Department holds on the use of the Working Definition of anti-Semitism; whether he has had recent discussions with universities on the definition; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60422]

(2) what definition of anti-Semitism his Department uses; what recent discussions he has had with the Jewish community on its definition since May 2010; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60423]

(3) whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had recent discussions with the Union of Jewish Students; and if he will make a statement; [R] [60534]

(4) what recent representations he has received from the Union of Jewish Students; what response his Department gave to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [R] [60535]

Mr Willetts: The Department does not hold information about the use of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. It is public knowledge that it has been adopted by the National Union of Students. We have not held discussions with universities about definitions of anti-Semitism, or about any specific definition used by the Department with the Jewish community.

The UK Government currently uses the Macpherson definition of a racist incident which is an incident that is perceived as racist by the victim or any other person, and this would include anti-Semitism.

I met with the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) towards the end of last year, alongside the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) (as the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Anti-Semitism), the Community Security Trust and Higher Education (HE) sector bodies such as Universities UK (UUK) and the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) to discuss the experiences of Jewish students in HE. My officials have met with the UJS to discuss the Prevent strategy, and the recent motion concerning the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC, now the FRA) working definition of anti-Semitism agreed at the University and College Union's annual congress.

The Government's position is clear: anti-Semitism and intolerance have no place in our society and no place in higher education. Staff and students from all backgrounds, cultures and communities must be welcome in our higher education sector.

The UK has in place one of the strongest legislative frameworks to protect people from harassment and abuse, and specifically racial or religious persecution. This framework provides protection to Jewish people alongside other ethnic and religious groups. As independent organisations, higher education institutions are directly accountable for compliance with the law and hold the

primary responsibility for ensuring that their staff and students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus.

In addition to legal requirements, institutions have access to a range of practical guidance to help them ensure fair treatment of their staff and students, and to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions.

The Government would expect institutions to vigorously tackle intolerance on campus when it arises.

Intellectual Property

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date the Intellectual Property Office will publish the findings of its consultation on patent infringement in pharmaceutical clinical and field trials; and when the Government plan to respond to any recommendations made. [60588]

Mr Davey: There is little I can add to my previous answer on this subject given on 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 517-18W. The Government do not plan a separate response to any recommendations arising from the Intellectual Property Office's consultation since those recommendations will be cleared with Ministers in the usual way. Publication of the findings will take place either at the same time as the recommendations or earlier if possible.

Mary Portas

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether Mary Portas will receive remuneration from his Department for her work on the high street retail review; [58099]

(2) what remuneration Mary Portas will receive for leading the independent review on the future of the high street. [60745]

Mr Prisk: Mary Portas is not being paid for her work on this review.

North Sea Oil

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1348W, on North Sea oil, on what dates prior to the Budget Statement of 23 March 2011 meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and Ministers in the Treasury on the implications for investment in North Sea oil and gas fields of changes to taxation. [60678]

Mr Prisk: Nothing has changed since my answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1348W.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on North sea oil, on what dates prior to the Budget Statement of 23 March 2011 meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and Ministers in the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the implications for investment in North Sea oil and gas fields of changes to taxation. [60679]

Mr Prisk: Nothing has changed since my answer of 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1349W.

One North East

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* land and *(b)* other assets will be transferred from One North East to the Homes and Communities Agency in each local authority area in the North East. [59950]

Mr Prisk: BIS is currently working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and others to agree arrangements to manage some regional development agency land and property assets. No decisions have yet been made; we hope to make an announcement soon. We aim wherever possible to protect the intended economic and regeneration benefits to local areas of developing these assets, and allow local partners to influence the way they are developed.

PA Consulting

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether UK Trade & Investment has set any objectives for PA Consulting to reach in respect of direct investment in each region. [58456]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) contracted in March 2011 with PA Consulting (PA) for the delivery of services to support foreign direct investment into the UK. That contract contains targets for PA for the quantity and quality of successful investment projects into the UK that they support.

UKTI has not set specific objectives for PA in terms of regional dispersal of investment projects. However, UKTI is committed with PA to monitoring new investments against the broad regional profile of previous years. Should significant disparity with previous investment levels in any UK region/devolved Administration arise, UKTI will assess the reasons, and take action as necessary. Close dialogue with local partners (including local enterprise partnerships and devolved Administrations) will be an important part of this assessment process.

Press: Competition

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on consumer interests of present arrangements for the regulation of the newspaper and magazine distribution industry. [60113]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State has made no assessment. Competition matters relating to the effects on consumer interests from the distribution arrangements covering the newspaper and magazine industry fall to the Office of Fair Trading.

Trade Agreements

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on non-tariff barriers in the negotiation of free trade agreements. [60611]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* Eliminating non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade and, as far as possible, preventing the establishment of new NTBs, is a key UK objective in Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. We agreed annexes to address NTBs in the EU-South Korea FTA, and we are pressing hard for NTBs to be tackled in other FTAs, including the EU-India FTA where addressing NTBs in the automobile sector is a particular priority.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate *(a)* the cost to UK manufacturers and *(b)* the effects on levels of growth of non-tariff barriers in free trade agreements with (i) India, (ii) South Korea and (iii) Japan. [60613]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The benefits to the EU from tackling non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in free trade agreements (FTAs) can be substantial but in all trade deals there will be some adjustment costs. For the EU-South Korea, the elimination of NTBs in the final agreement was the major factor behind the anticipated gains increasing from €19 billion (in earlier estimates) to €33 billion. Negotiations on the EU-India FTA are ongoing, and negotiations with Japan are yet to be launched. In both, the reduction of NTBs will be a key UK objective.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what industry organisations he consulted prior to the signing of each UK and EU free trade agreement made since 12 May 2010. [60615]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* For all fair trade agreement (FTA) negotiations the Department regularly consults with a wide range of business stakeholders to update them on the status of negotiations, and to make sure that we understand their concerns and priorities. We consulted businesses and business federations throughout the negotiations of the EU-South Korea FTA and in the lead up to signature in September 2010.

Trade Agreements: EU External Trade

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to prepare the removal of non-tariff barriers when negotiating EU free trade agreements. [60612]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* In all free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations, the UK undertakes its own analysis and consults widely with business stakeholders to ensure that we identify and prioritise those issues, including non-tariff barriers, which matter most to UK business. Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) have formed a key part of the market opening of the EU FTAs with developed countries such as EU-South Korea. The removal of NTBs in EU is very much in our interests to improve the functioning of the single market, which is our largest export market.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of non-tariff barriers on the competitiveness of UK companies in relation to the countries with which the EU has free trade agreements. [60614]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) can be a more significant barrier to trade than tariffs, especially for trade between developed countries. For this reason, the EU and the UK prioritise the elimination of NTBs in free trade agreements (FTAs). For the EU-South Korea, the elimination of NTBs in the final agreement was the major factor behind the anticipated gains increasing from €19 billion (in earlier estimates) to €33 billion to the EU.

UK Trade & Investment: Expenditure

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of investment by UK Trade & Investment has been in respect of *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK since May 2010. [60269]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* Companies investing in the UK are not required to disclose the value of their investments to UK Trade & Investment (UKTI). UKTI records the number of foreign direct investment projects entering the UK each year. The inward investment results for the UK, including North Yorkshire, Yorkshire and the Humber and England, for the financial year 2010/11 will be announced on 11 July 2011.

UK Trade & Investment: Manpower

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many UK Trade & Investment staff are *(a)* based in and *(b)* dedicated to each region of England. [60270]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* People working for UKTI are either employees of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills or the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or from the private sector through our contracted out delivery arrangements. In the English regions there are 58 civil servants and 299 private sector employees. The following table sets out the number of people based in and dedicated to each region.

Region	*Number of people (May 2011)*
East of England	38
East Midlands	36
London	44
North East	26
North West	29
South East	52
South West	44
West Midlands	56
Yorkshire & Humber	32
Total	357

UK Trade & Investment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many inquiries UK Trade & Investment received in relation to *(a)* investment, *(b)* general help and advice and *(c)* help and advice relating to exporting from businesses in Yorkshire and the Humber in the financial year 2010-11. [60268]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* The UK Trade & Investment Inquiry Service received 24,476 trade and investment inquiries by telephone and e-mail in 2010-11. The Inquiry Service do not record where an inquiry originates.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate of average global temperature his Department and its predecessors used when considering policies on climate change in each of the last 15 years. [61059]

Gregory Barker: During the past 15 years, DECC and its predecessors have taken note of the annual global average surface temperature estimates made by the UK Met Office and Climatic Research Unit, and NASA and NOAA in the United States. These have been published in various journals and assessed by the IPCC and other scientific bodies.

During this period all these analyses show yearly and short term temperature fluctuations, which are due to natural variations in the climate system, and a continuing underlying upward trend in global temperatures. It is the long-term upward trend in the temperature record that is the main reason for concern over climate change.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [61218]

Gregory Barker: The Department has a very small estate and has authority over only two buildings, 3 Whitehall Place and 55 Whitehall in London. As part of our strategy for reducing the carbon emissions from our estate and operations, we have plans to explore the feasibility of generating low carbon energy at these buildings.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60186]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has introduced the following policies to encourage small and medium sized entities (SMEs) to bid for its contracts:

Disclosure of more information about public procurement opportunities, including information about major projects in the pipeline for small businesses and social enterprises to view. The Department's contracts with a value of over £10,000 are now published in full online and free of charge through the procurement web-portal "Contracts Finder".

For all procurements under the EU threshold, the Department has eliminated pre- qualification questionnaires which may previously have deterred or ruled out SMEs from bidding.

The Department is now recording separately business transacted with SMEs. This will help target actions to increase the level of contracts awarded to SMEs and monitor the effectiveness of those actions .

The Department encourages early supplier involvement, where possible through bidders' conferences, in order to promote wider market engagement at the pre- procurement stage.

The Department encourages innovation in contract specifications and, where appropriate, innovation is included as part of the evaluation criteria of tender exercises. This helps encourage the smaller enterprises that tend to operate in the energy innovation field.

Electric Cables

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on provisions to minimise the visual impact of overhead power lines on landscapes. [60088]

Charles Hendry: To date, engagement by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) with Ofgem on the visual impact of overhead power lines has been at official level as part of Ofgem's next transmission price control review (RIIO-T1). This has involved bilateral discussions, correspondence and participation at stakeholder events such as the Price Control Review Forum and RIIO Working Groups. Where new and replacement pylons are required, DECC is keen to support the development of the most visually acceptable overhead solutions. The Royal Institute of British Architects is therefore running a competition on behalf of DECC and National Grid that calls for designs for a new generation of pylon. A key element to the competition will be a public consultation exercise in September which will provide members of the public with a chance to comment on the best designs. Further details are available from:

http://www.ribapylondesign.com/

Energy

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will establish a public inquiry into transparency in the energy market and the merits of introducing an enforceable requirement for clarity at each stage. [60138]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 892W.

Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to implement the provisions on general permitted development rights of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009. [60923]

Gregory Barker: A statutory instrument will be laid before Parliament shortly to prepare the way for new permitted development rights for the domestic installations of micro wind turbines and air source heat pumps as the Green Energy (Definition and Promotions) Act 2009 requires. I will continue to work with colleagues at the Department for Communities and Local Government on this.

Energy: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether permanent energy efficiency saving schemes will be eligible to receive support from the Capacity Mechanism. [61042]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to encouraging and incentivising energy efficiency within the home, and in the public and private sectors, and have a range of policies in place to achieve this including current measures such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programmes (CESP), and future measures such as the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).

DECC is currently developing a White Paper which will set out proposals for Electricity Market Reform (EMR), including the proposed Capacity Mechanism. We recognise that demand side measures have an important contribution to make in supporting the transition to a low-carbon generating mix and ensuring security of supply. A key element of that is to consider how to ensure our policies on security of supply incentivise demand side measures where it can deliver energy security in the most cost effective way.

We are considering views raised in response to the EMR consultation on demand-side issues in development of the White Paper, which we intend to publish before the summer recess.

Energy: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding from the public purse his Department allocated to each energy sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [59720]

Gregory Barker: Budgets for 2011-12 have been allocated to energy sectors as follows:

Sector	*Expenditure (£ million)*
Nuclear	44
Renewables	15
Oil and Gas	13
Carbon Capture and Storage	12
Other Low Carbon	70
Historical Energy Liabilities (nuclear and coal)	2,355

This represents 78% of the total budget for 2011-12 of £3.0 billion. The remaining budget will mainly be spent on combating fuel poverty in the UK, programmes to improve energy efficiency and international energy and climate change issues.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 580W, on energy: private rented housing, which organisations representing tenants are feeding into one of the Government's four industry-led forums for the Green Deal. [60863]

Gregory Barker: A number of organisations representing tenants, whether as their sole focus or under a broad remit of representing consumers, feed into the Green Deal forums and associated sub-groups: The National Organisation of Residents' Associations, North West Tenants and Residents Assembly, Shelter, National Union of Students, Consumer Focus, Citizens Advice, Age UK, and Which?.

Microgeneration

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which of the microgeneration technologies eligible for *(a)* feed-in tariffs and *(b)* the Renewable Heat Incentive have been subject to formal life cycle analysis. [59747]

Gregory Barker: There is a wide body of research into the lifecycle performance of technologies supported by both feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive. For example, two UK specific studies estimate average carbon footprints of 88 gCO_2eq/kWh for domestic solar photovoltaics and 68 gCO_2eq/kWh for 600W micro-wind[1]. Carbon footprints for such systems have been falling due to efficiency improvements in their production. For comparison, another UK study estimates a carbon footprint of 488 gCO_2eq/kWh for electricity from a combined cycle gas turbine[2].

In practice, life cycle carbon and energy footprints will vary between installations, depending for example on the suitability of the site and the impact of this on performance.

[1] Allen SR et al, 2008, Proc ICE: Energy, 161, 73-86 and Allen SR & Hammond GP, 2010, Energy, 35,2223-2234.

[2] Odeh N & Cockerill TT, 2008, Energy Policy, 36, 367-80.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 108W, on nuclear power, when he expects to publish his conclusions on the consultation on proposed changes to the Paris Convention and Brussels Supplementary Convention on nuclear third party liability. [60546]

Charles Hendry: The consultation on the changes to the Paris Convention and Brussels Supplementary Convention on nuclear third party liability ran from 24 January to 28 April. Officials are now reviewing the responses received.

We intend to publish a summary of responses and a Government response later this year.

Nuclear Power Stations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he has taken of the risk of natural disasters in his plans for new nuclear power stations. [60847]

Charles Hendry: Companies operating or intending to operate nuclear power stations must make safety assessments, which are assessed by the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The events that the operator must consider include flooding, seismic activity and extreme weather. The safety assessment should demonstrate that threats

from external hazards are either removed, minimised or tolerated. This may be done by showing that safety related plant and equipment are designed to meet appropriate performance criteria against the postulated external hazard, and by the provision of safety systems which respond to mitigate the effects of the event.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 112-3W, on radioactive waste, which prospective operators of new nuclear plants have expressed an interest in entering a radioactive waste transfer contract. [60545]

Charles Hendry: Three consortia—NNB Genco (EDF Energy, Centrica), Horizon Nuclear Power (RWE Npower, E.ON) and NuGeneration (Scottish and Southern Energy, GDF Suez, Ibedrola) have announced plans to build new nuclear power stations in the UK. DECC officials are in regular contact with the three consortia on a range of issues and this has included discussions relating to the possibility of entering into a waste transfer contract at some point in the future.

Renewable Energy: Feed-in Tariffs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the take up of feed-in tariffs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Germany; and if he will make a statement. [60844]

Gregory Barker: Real time data on feed-in tariffs (FIT) uptake in the UK are available on Ofgem's website. DECC also publishes a monthly summary of these data on its website. The latest data relate to schemes confirmed onto the FITs scheme at the end of May 2011. The following table shows the latest figures and those for end of March 2011, which was the end of the first full year of the FITs scheme.

FIT uptake by technology

	End March 2011		*End May 2011*	
Technology	*Number*	*Capacity (kW)*	*Number*	*Capacity (kW)*
Anaerobic digestion	3	1,766	4	3,926
Hydro	205	9,866	214	11,911
Photovoltaics	28,505	77,848	37,640	104,744
Wind	1,329	18,917	1,465	20,326
MicroCHP	98	98	138	139
Total	30,140	108,494	39,461	141,047

The German feed-in tariff system is that country's primary renewable energy incentive scheme, covering all scales (whereas the renewables obligation is the UK's primary incentive for large-scale renewable electricity generation). It has been in operation since 2000, and up to 2009 it supported 45,677 MW of generation (German data are from the International Energy Agency, which collects information on renewable capacity from all member countries, and 2009 is the latest date for which data are available).

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on his decision to set new feed-in tariffs for small-scale low-carbon electricity. [61249]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has included Ministers in the Scottish and Welsh Assembly Governments, and their officials, in discussions leading up to the recent decision to introduce new tariffs following the fast track review of the feed-in tariffs. The FITs scheme does not apply in Northern Ireland.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to hold a comprehensive review of the feed-in tariff scheme. [61250]

Gregory Barker: On 7 February 2011, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change announced the start of the first comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs (FITs). This review is now under way and we are currently considering responses to a call for evidence on the review's scope which formed part of the recently concluded fast-track consultation on FITs. We are intending to consult on more detailed proposals in the summer.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* the renewable heat incentive and *(b)* the renewable heat incentive premium payment will apply to new-build housing. [59313]

Gregory Barker: The Government plan to introduce support for households through phase two of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) in October 2012 alongside the Green Deal. We are currently looking at the eligibility criteria and considering whether new build properties should be supported and will consult on our proposals by the end of 2011.

Details of the criteria for the renewable heat premium payment (RH PP) will be available shortly.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60201]

Gregory Barker: From April 2010 the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has awarded 2% of its contracts, amounting to four contracts, to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) located in Scotland. One of these businesses is based in Strathclyde so could be located in either the South Lanarkshire or the Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency.

The data available from the Department's arm's length bodies are about orders rather than contracts and show that:

1) The Coal Authority has placed 1.5% of its orders with SMEs based in Scotland and 0.3% of its orders with SMEs based in Lanarkshire.

2) The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) placed 1.5% of its orders with suppliers based in Scotland. The NDA is unable to determine whether the orders related to SMEs without incurring the disproportionate expense of examining all individual orders.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the number of solar farms with a generating capacity greater than one megawatt that will be installed and commissioned before 1 August 2011. [61248]

Gregory Barker: To date, Ofgem have not approved any applications from PV schemes with an installed capacity greater than 1 MW. However, from discussions with the industry I anticipate that some schemes of this size will be generating before 1 August 2011. DECC's current understanding is that the total capacity of such schemes could be around 40 MW.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the UK's performance in developing solar photovoltaics. [61251]

Gregory Barker: In the first year of operation 28,000 solar photovoltaic (PV) installations were confirmed under the GB feed-in tariffs scheme, totalling over 77 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity. In the first two months of this financial year, close to a further 150 installations were completed per day.

There are two UK-based manufacturers of PV panels: Romag and Sharp Solar.

Solar Power: Public Buildings

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals, *(c)* other public buildings and *(d)* community buildings that will be fitted with solar photovoltaic installations with a generating capacity between 50 and 100 kilowatts under the feed-in tariff scheme in the year after 1 August 2011. [61247]

Gregory Barker: The design of tariffs under the feed-in tariffs (FITs) scheme, as completed by the last Government, is based on the technology and generation capacity of the installation and not on generator type. Therefore, we do not currently have the information requested either for existing installations or future installations.

As confirmed in the recent Government response to the fast-track review of the FITs scheme, the intention is that from 1 August 2011 a new tariff of 19.0p/kWh will apply to solar photovoltaic installations of between 50 and 150 kW. We consider that this will deliver a 5% internal rate of return for well located installations, which could include those on community buildings.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 21 June 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions were brought by the Crown Prosecution Service in respect of offences involving human trafficking in each of the last five years. [60919]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records show that, in the last five years, the following prosecutions have been brought on charges under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, alleging trafficking for other exploitative purposes:

Number of prosecutions under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation

	Number
2006-07	40
2007-08	87
2008-09	114
2009-10	102
2010-11	96

Number of prosecutions under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, alleging trafficking for other exploitative purposes

	Number
2006-07	0
2007-08	3
2008-09	10
2009-10	19
2010-11	20

The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act and Section. These data are not held by defendant or by outcome.

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General what mechanism the Law Officers' Departments have established to ensure their payments are passed through the supply chain to each tier in accordance with the last date for payment defined in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55899]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol), Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Serious Fraud Office (SFO) each have their own accounting officer. The accounting officer for TSol also covers the Attorney-General's Office (AGO) and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

TSol uses contract mechanisms to support the timely payment of their accounts in situations where sub-contractors are used to deliver services. The main expenditure using sub-contractors is for temporary administrative staff. These utilise the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions framework conditions, which include a clause requiring the contractor to pay all sums due to the sub-contractor within the period specified in their subcontract, and not to exceed 30 days.

Building maintenance services, which would be specifically covered by construction works mentioned in the Government's Fair Payment guidance, are provided as follows:

(a) For TSol headquarters office at One Kemble Street such services are provided under a lease arrangement with a private sector landlord which does not include reference to guaranteeing timely payments to sub-contractors.

(b) For the AGO office at Victoria Street, such services are provided under a separate contract, which does not include any terms relating to the timeliness of payments to sub-contractors. However new contractual arrangements are envisaged which will include provision about the timeliness of such payments.

TSol's standard terms and conditions for services used for low value purchasing do not enable suppliers to sub-contract.

The SFO normally uses contracts provided through OGC frameworks. The SFO indicate that on occasions when they undertake to issue their own contracts they use the model terms and conditions available from the OGC's website, which includes clauses ensuring that contractors sub-contracting pass on Fair Payment practices.

The CPS has a limited requirement for construction services. When it does, it is their policy to use the OGC's model terms and conditions for construction wherever practicable. These provide for the prompt payment of contractors within specific periods and for lead contractors to adopt similar payment terms for any sub-contractors used.

TRANSPORT

Air Routes

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure transparency in decision-making procedures relating to new flight paths. [59800]

Mrs Villiers: The Directorate of Airspace Policy, part of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), is responsible for the UK's airspace change process. This is implemented in accordance with CAP (Civil Aviation Publication) 724, the "Airspace Charter", to ensure fair and effective regulation of the airspace system.

CAP 725, CAA "Guidance on the Application of the Airspace Change Process", sets out the consultation process an airspace change sponsor must follow before it formally submits an airspace change request to the CAA. It specifies that the CAA will be openly and transparently accountable in making its regulatory decisions.

Airports: Fees and Charges

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department provides guidance to international airports on charges for access for the drop-off of air passengers. [60391]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not provide guidance to airport operators on air passenger drop-off charges. The establishment and setting of such charges is a commercial matter for airport operators.

Driving: Licensing

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provisions are in place to prevent individuals without a *(a)* provisional or *(b)* full UK driving licence purchasing motor insurance. [60835]

Mike Penning: There is no statutory requirement on insurers to check that someone seeking motor insurance has a valid driving licence. Insurers undertake the risk of those they insure and are obliged to meet the insured's liability in the event of an accident.

East Coast Railway Line: Finance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding from the public purse Directly Operated Railways Ltd received to run East Coast Main Line rail passenger services in each year from 2009 to 2011; and how much funding from the public purse will be allocated each year to 2013. [58778]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* No public subsidy has been made available to Directly Operated Railways Ltd (DOR) or the East Coast Main Line Company Ltd (ECML) since 2009.

However, a loan facility from the Secretary of State for Transport has been made available, on commercial terms, to DOR and ECML to provide working capital.

The principal outstanding as at 31 March 2011 is £21 million. The rolled up interest on the principal as at that date was £1.486 million. This loan agreement will terminate when the Services Agreement between the Secretary of State for Transport and ECML comes to an end, at which point the principal and any outstanding interest will be repayable.

The loan is a revolving credit facility and as such DOR is free to repay all or part of it at any point prior to the termination of the Services Agreement.

Motor Vehicles: Sales

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of used car sales that have involved tampering with odometer readings since 2005. [60875]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Transport does not have year on year figures as requested. However, an OFT study on the second-hand car market estimated that between 5 and 12% of second-hand cars checked have a mileage discrepancy.

Passenger Ships: Liverpool

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) the European Commission and (ii) others on the potential repayment of funding allocated by his Department to Liverpool cruise terminal. [59984]

Mike Penning: I met Councillor Anderson, leader of Liverpool city council, along with council officers and the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman) to discuss this subject during my visit to the Mersey on 13 January this year. I discussed it also with the hon. Member for Wirral West (Esther McVey) in December, and with Councillor Royston Smith, leader of Southampton city council, in March. Officials have discussed the matter informally from time to time with Liverpool city council officers, and with representatives of ports opposing grant repayment in return for permitting turnaround operations at the terminal.

Departmental officials and I have had no discussions with the European Commission on this matter.

Road Works: Regulation

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of street works legislation. [59316]

Norman Baker: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 729W.

Shipping

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions ships' captains have been given a direction under the provisions of the Marine Safety Act 2003; what the date was of each such direction; to which ship each direction applied; and what the nature was of each direction so given. [60946]

Mike Penning: Since the Marine Safety Act came into legislation on 10 September 2003 the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) has made 13 directions to ships' captains. The details of these are set out as follows:

Date	*Ship name*	*Description of direction*
9 February 2004	Altelund	Direction to anchor in a safe place and wait for contracted tug.
25 October 2004	Nyk Argus	Direction forbidding entry into a fire damaged hold until approved by the MCA and the CO_2 onboard the vessel had been replenished.
19 November 2004	Fione	Direction to receive a line from the ETV Monarch Sovereign and accept a tow to a place of safety.
10 January 2005	Great Moon	Direction to anchorage to effect repairs.
14 January 2005	Annie Hillina	Direction to receive a line from the ETV Anglian Sovereign and accept a tow to a place of safety.
17 February 2005	Amata	Direction to secure tug assistance.
27 October 2005	Rosita	Direction to Master and owners to provide an acceptable recovery plan for the containers lost overboard.

Date	Ship name	Description of direction
4 February 2006	Saruna	Direction to proceed to an anchorage designated by Falmouth Harbour Master.
22 February 2007	Lokys	Direction to arrange towage.
10 December 2007	Stropus	Direction to arrange towage.
2 January 2008	LT Cortesia	Direction to accept a line from a UK ETV.
25 May 2008	Elbfeeder	Direction to contract a tug and make for refuge.
25 December 2010	Eren Turgut	Direction to take a line from ETV.

Shipping: Alcoholic Drinks

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to implement section 80 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003. [60360]

Mike Penning: There is not currently a fixed date for implementing section 80 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling stock

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the award of the Thameslink Rolling Stock Programme contract. [60084]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 85-6WS, in which I announced the Department's preferred bidder for new rolling stock for the Thameslink Programme.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Cycling

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment the Commission has made of the accessibility of Transport for London hire bicycles to hon. Members. [60393]

John Thurso: Officials and Transport for London (TfL) have identified a suitable site for a docking station on land owned by the House of Commons at Abingdon Green. It is anticipated that the docking station will be accessed from Great College Street. This location was deemed the most appropriate for a number of reasons, including accessibility for hon. Members.

TFL is investigating the feasibility of additional sites in close proximity to the parliamentary estate.

Printing Machinery

Duncan Hames: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much the House of Commons Service spent on *(a)* printers and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last three years. [59639]

John Thurso: The House of Commons Service spent the following on printers for the use of House staff:

Financial year	Expenditure (£)
2008-09	41,000
2009-10	44,000
2010-11	55,000

Most House of Commons printers use toner rather than ink cartridges. It is not possible to state the amount of toner and ink purchased since it is not coded separately in the House's accounting system and can be purchased from a number of suppliers.

Speaker's Conference

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what progress the House of Commons Commission has made in implementing the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation. [59847]

John Thurso: The House administration is responsible for 16 of the recommendations from the Speaker's Conference on Parliamentary Representation, on which good progress has been made. For example, since the previous response on this issue (29 October 2010), the proposal for Members being able to vote accompanied by their babies under a year old has been addressed through agreement in principle on nodding through such Members and practical ways of introducing that initiative are being developed; workplace equality networks have been set up to support Members and others on the estate; and more information is about to be published on the internet on accessibility in Parliament. Some of the report's recommendations fall within the purview of the House of Commons Single Equality Scheme, and will be reflected in the update to the Commission on that scheme in the autumn.

WALES

Devolution

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she plans to announce the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* membership of the review team for the inquiry into the ways in which Wales is funded. [60645]

Mrs Gillan: The Government intend to announce their proposals before the summer recess.

Olympic Games 2012

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on ensuring that Wales maximises the tourist opportunities of the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [60089]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has had discussions with the First Minister on a number of topics, including how to maximise the

benefits of the London 2012 Olympic Games for Wales. Wales will host some of the first Olympic Events including the qualifying matches for Football.

The Secretary of State recently met VisitBritain to discuss, among other issues, the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. VisitBritain will be running the "You're Invited" programme over the next four years, to capitalise on international interest in the recent royal wedding, as well as next year's diamond jubilee, and Olympic and Paralympic Games. Their programme aims to attract 4 million extra visitors to the UK, including Wales. This anticipated boost in tourism will support businesses, jobs and growth across the UK.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what training camps she expects to be established in Wales in preparation for the London 2012 *(a)* Olympics and *(b)* Paralympics; and if she will make a statement. [60090]

Mr David Jones: To date, four countries have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Welsh Government that outlines their intention to train in Wales. These include the Olympic team from Trinidad and Tobago and the Paralympic teams of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Welsh facilities will also host training for specific Olympic and Paralympic events, including the:

(a) British Olympic and Paralympic Cycling teams at the Newport velodrome;

(b) US Paralympic Track Cycling team at the Newport velodrome;

(c) Amateur International Boxing Association 'Road to London' training camp at Cardiff university; and

(d) Irish Triathlon team at Swansea university and the surrounding Gower Peninsular.

It is anticipated that these camps will involve over 700 athletes and support staff who will train in Wales in the weeks leading to the Games with direct investment into the economy potentially running into millions of pounds.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment she has made of the *(a)* economic, *(b)* social and *(c)* cultural legacy of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [60507]

Mr David Jones: The UK stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 Games, through businesses winning Games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations. London 2012 has already brought significant new opportunities for UK businesses especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including those in Wales.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for developing and building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Games. As of May 2011, over 1,500 UK businesses, including those directly involved in the construction programme, have supplied the ODA from across UK. Thousands of businesses in the UK are working on the Games through supplier contracts worth in excess of £5 billion.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has commissioned an evaluation of the impacts and legacy of the London 2012 Games. An initial evaluation will be published in the spring/summer 2013.

Trade Unions

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* the First Minister of the Welsh Government and *(b)* trade unions on the potential effects in Wales of Civil Service job losses; and if she will make a statement. [60092]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), has regular meetings with all stakeholders to discuss employment issues in Wales and will shortly be having another meeting with the Trades Union Congress.

SCOTLAND

Financial Services

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the financial services sector in Scotland. [60389]

Michael Moore: I met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 7 June and we discussed a wide range of issues. Both the Chancellor and I are acutely aware of the importance of the financial sector in Scotland.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what powers are available to the Electoral Commission in respect of electoral registration officers who do not meet registration standards; and on how many occasions each such power has been used in each of the last three years. [60432]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 gave the Electoral Commission the power to set and monitor performance standards for both electoral registration officers (EROs) and returning officers. The powers, at this time, do not extend to sanctions for those officers who do not meet the standards.

However, in each of the three years where an ERO has failed to meet one of the standards, the Electoral Commission has visited the ERO to establish the reasons for poor performance and to offer support and additional guidance to assist those officers.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many electoral registration officers did not meet the participation standards to promote electoral registration in their community in each of the last three years. [60433]

Mr Streeter: The number of electoral registration officers (EROs) that did not meet the participation standard is set out as follows:

	Number of EROs
2008	265
2009	155
2010	47

This information is available in the Commission's annual assessment reports, which are sent to all hon. Members, and on the Commission website as part of a tool which allows the comparison of year on year performance or between EROs.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which electoral registration officers did not meet the participation standard to promote electoral registration in their community in the latest period for which figures are available. [60434]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that 47 electoral registration officers did not meet the participation standard in the latest period of data collection. The local authority areas of the relevant EROs are shown in the following list. The Commission informs me that this information can also be found in its annual assessment reports and on the Commission's website.

Adur
Ashford
Barking and Dagenham
Basildon
Blaenau Gwent
Broadland
Boston
Broxtowe
Cannock Chase
Cardiff
Ceredigion
Cherwell
Chiltern
Christchurch
Corby
Craven
Dacorum
Eastbourne
East Lindsey
East Hertfordshire
Eden
Fenland
Flintshire
Halton
Hambleton
Harrogate
Isle of Anglesey
Kingston upon Hull
Lewes
Luton
Maldon
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Norwich
North Lincolnshire
Portsmouth
Preston
Redbridge
Rugby
Solihull
Spelthorne
Stroud
Sutton
Uttlesford
Worthing
Wycombe
Wiltshire

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Officers

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* uniformed officers at three and four stars in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force and *(b)* civilian officers at the same rank there were (A) in May 2010 and (B) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [60524]

Mr Robathan: The following table lists the number of officers of the armed forces and Ministry of Defence civilians of four and three-star rank/status as at 1 May 2010 and 1 May 2011 respectively.

Rank/status	*Service*	*1 May 2010*	*1 May 2011*
4 star	Royal Navy	2	2
	Army	5	6
	Royal Air Force	3	2
	Civilian	3	4
3 star	Royal Navy	9	7
	Army	14	9
	Royal Air Force	9	8
	Civilian	7	6

Note:
The figures for any one date will include officers undertaking resettlement activity prior to retirement and their replacement taking up a post early to allow for continuity.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new three and four-star roles for *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staffs have been created since May 2010; and whether any compensatory savings have been made elsewhere. [60526]

Mr Robathan: Since May 2010 no new three or four-star posts have been created. Three three-star posts have had their responsibilities amended, and have been retitled accordingly. Within Defence Engineering and Support, the Chief of Corporate Performance has become Director General Resources and the Chief Operating Officer is now Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers). Separately the Chief Executive of Defence Estates is now Director General Infrastructure. In addition, the three-star civilian post of Director General Commercial has been deleted.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with military tailors about the cost of dress uniforms for officers; [60600]

(2) what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* dress and *(b)* military uniform in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [60601]

Mr Robathan: The majority of contracts for military and dress uniforms for all three services are placed by the Defence Clothing Team (DCT) within Defence Equipment and Support. Spend on military uniforms (including jackets, trousers, shirts, headwear and footwear) in financial year 2010-11 was £42.5 million. Spend on dress (parade and ceremonial) uniforms for the same period was £9.2 million.

There are also some locally placed contracts for uniforms and ceremonial dress where expenditure totalled £218,000 in the last year.

Regular discussions take place between DCT and their potential bidders and actual suppliers on specifications and other aspects of the contracts as well as specific negotiations on contract price.

Aviation: Aircraft Carriers

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of *(a)* operating (i) aircraft from Italy and (ii) an aircraft carrier within 20 miles of Libya for (A) one and (B) three months and *(b)* moving an aircraft carrier from the UK to Libya. [60605]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Defence: Procurement

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on improving defence procurement since the appointment of the new Chief of Defence Materiel; and if he will make a statement. [60527]

Peter Luff: The new Chief of Defence Materiel, appointed at the beginning of January 2011, has initiated a fundamental review to establish the core role for Defence Equipment and Support and how it can deliver its business most efficiently and effectively. This review, known as The Materiel Strategy, will be coherent with Defence Reform outcomes and the forthcoming 'Equipment, Support, and Technology for UK Defence and Security' White Paper that is expected to be published later this year. The Materiel Strategy will be implemented from early 2012 onwards.

Additionally, I have established the Major Projects Review Board that met for the first time on 13 June 2011. This new board scrutinises the Department's highest value equipment projects to ensure tight financial controls are in place and that performance and time targets are met. Those responsible for projects forecasting significant slippage, cost growth, or performance shortfalls will be robustly held to account.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59732]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence's delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period is outlined in the Department's business plan 2011-15. This sets out the vision and priorities until 2015 against the backdrop of the 2010 National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR). The business plan, like those of every other Government Department, contains five sections: vision, coalition priorities, structural reform plan, departmental expenditure, and transparency. The structural reform plan in particular covers key activities that were outlined in the SDSR White Paper including restructuring the armed forces and their capabilities, rebuilding the armed forces covenant and developing the new employment model, delivering Defence reform, and ensuring that all our other tasks are carried out in an effective, efficient, and sustainable way.

Progress against the Department's business plan is set out in the structural reform plan monthly updates and the forthcoming quarterly data summary, which will be published in due course on the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Transparency/

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60338]

Mr Robathan: Between 1 March and 31 May 2011, the Ministry of Defence introduced six new items of secondary legislation, namely:

The Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme (Amendment) Order 2011

The Thetford Range Byelaws 2011

The Pensions Appeal Tribunals Act 1943 (Time Limit for Appeals) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

The Pensions Appeal Tribunals Act 1943 (Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme) (Rights of Appeal) Regulations 2011

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Trading Fund Order 2011

The Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 (Amendment) Order 2011

It is not estimated that there will be any cost implications to those affected by these new instruments.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60498]

Mr Robathan: Between 1 March and 31 May 2011, the Ministry of Defence has revoked the following seven regulatory measures:

The Pensions Appeal Tribunals (Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation) (Rights of Appeal) Regulations 2005

The Pensions Appeal Tribunals (Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation Scheme) (Rights of Appeal) Amendment Regulations 2006

The Defence Research Agency Trading Fund Order 1993

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency Trading Fund Order 1995

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency Trading Fund (Amendment) Order 1996

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Trading Fund Order 2001

The Thetford Rifle Range in the County of Norfolk Byelaws 1916

These revocations have come as the result of the regular updating and consolidation of departmental secondary legislation, and are not estimated to have any financial impact.

Departmental Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on special advisers' travel by *(a)* Government car, *(b)* private hire car, *(c)* train, *(d)* bus, *(e)* commercial aircraft and *(f)* private aircraft in each year between May 2004 and May 2010. [58940]

Dr Fox: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Kenya: Military Bases

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department is giving to the upgrading of the British Army training base in Kenya as part of the UK's long-term military training needs. [60627]

Nick Harvey: The strategic defence and security review confirmed that the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) will remain pivotal to meeting the training needs of the Army. The drivers for further investment include the continued UK presence in Kenya within a strategic context and the need for improved logistic efficiency.

On current plans we intend to relocate BATUK MAIN and the Battlegroup Forward Mounting Base (BG FMB) from their current locations at Turako Farm and Nanyuki to a single site on Laikiapi Airbase (East). Approval of £7 million to deliver accommodation and other facilities was agreed in March this year. Ground works commenced shortly after with an estimated completion date of April 2012.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many sorties flown by the RAF have involved the discharge of bombs or missiles against targets in Libya on each day since the commencement of military action. [60045]

Nick Harvey: From the start of the UN Security Council Resolution 1973 operations in Libya on 19 March up to 14 June 2011, UK aircraft have flown about 200 sorties which have involved the discharge of bombs or missiles against targets in Libya. I cannot, however, disclose further information as this would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's officials are working on post-conflict planning for Libya. [60077]

Nick Harvey: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working with Whitehall partners in supporting and planning for the post-conflict efforts in Libya. Within the MOD there are a range of units in main building, London and the permanent joint headquarters, Northwood working exclusively on Libya. Many of the military and civilian officials are providing support to the post-conflict planning in addition to their permanent duties and it is not therefore possible to calculate the precise number.

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from senior armed forces personnel on the level of the UK's military commitment in Libya. [60963]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* I have frequent dialogue with our senior armed forces personnel regarding Defence matters including our military support to NATO operations in Libya.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the availability rate was of each TriStar aircraft in each of the last 12 months. [33442]

Nick Harvey: The available information is shown in the following table. The figures represent the average number of airframes from each TriStar variant available in the forward fleet during each month of 2010. The forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable.

TriStar forward fleet

	C2	*KC1*	*K1*
January	2	2.9	0
February	1.9	2.5	0
March	1.9	2.9	0.5
April	2	3.3	1
May	1	3.8	0.7
June	1	3.8	0.9
July	0.8	3.9	1
August	1	4	1
September	1	4	1
October	1	4	0
November	1.4	2.8	0.7
December	1.6	2.3	1

I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Nick Harvey to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of the 13 January 2011 (Official Report, column 444W) about the availability rate of TriStar aircraft in each of the last 12 months. I apologise for the delay in replying.

I have already provided you with the average number of TriStar aircraft available per month during 2010. The figures in the tables below show the availability expressed as a percentage of the forward fleet that was categorised as fit for purpose, which I hope you will find helpful. I have also added figures for the first three months of 2011 in order to bring the information as up to date as possible. As there is always an expectation that some maintenance tasks will be carried out and the fleet numbers are small, the figures would never reach 100%. The Forward Fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable, and could therefore be recalled if needed at short notice. Fit for purpose (FFP) aircraft include only serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes.

2010

	FFP/Fwd Fleet percentage
January	59.2
February	67.5
March	47.0
April	49.2

2010

	FFP/Fwd Fleet percentage
May	36.5
June	47.4
July	42.4
August	48.8
September	60.7
October	58.0
November	55.0
December	[1]38.4

[1] December 2010/January 2011 figures were low due to severe weather conditions in the UK.

2011

	FFP/Fwd Fleet percentage
January	38.8
February	43.2
March	67.7

As you will be aware the TriStar VC10 fleets are due to leave service in December 2013 and March 2013 respectively and will be replaced by the more capable Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft.

I hope this explains the situation.

Military Bases: Cyprus

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 416W, on British Sovereign Base, what level of security clearance, Lord Ashcroft has been given in his capacity as senior independent adviser to the study of British sovereign base areas in Cyprus. [60608]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The noble Lord, Lord Ashcroft, has been given the required security clearance. It would not however be appropriate to provide details of an individual's security clearance.

Territorial Army

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department is giving to a potential restructuring of the Territorial Army. [60628]

Mr Robathan: As part of the strategic defence and security review, the Prime Minister commissioned a study into the future role and structure of the reserve forces, which includes the Territorial Army. The study has yet to report its findings, and I anticipate that a statement will be made to the House shortly.

TREASURY

Budget: June 2010

16. **Jonathan Reynolds:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the progressive effects of the measures in the June 2010 Budget which have been implemented to date. [60788]

Justine Greening: The Government published detailed analysis of the impact of measures announced at the June Budget 2010. Charts A1 and A2 in Annex A of Budget 2010 show the impact of measures announced at that fiscal event, in 2012-13.

The majority of these measures have now been implemented. These charts show that the most well-off households make the largest contribution to fiscal consolidation in both cash terms and as a proportion of their net income.

Structural Deficit

17. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the size of the structural deficit. [60789]

Danny Alexander: The independent OBR published their latest forecasts for the structural deficit in the March "Economic and Fiscal Outlook". The OBR forecast shows the structural deficit was 7.4% GDP in 2010-11.

Job Creation: Manufacturing

20. **Andrew Stephenson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the rate of job creation in the manufacturing sector. [60792]

Justine Greening: Compared with previous trends, the 8,000 extra jobs created in manufacturing over the last two quarters is encouraging. In the decade preceding the recession, an average of 30,000 jobs were lost in manufacturing every quarter.

Private surveys of employment intentions are also encouraging; all main surveys suggest that employment intentions are above their long-run average in the manufacturing sector.

Unemployment Forecast

21. **Jon Ashworth:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likelihood that unemployment figures in 2011 will meet the forecast for that year made by the Office for Budget Responsibility in June 2010. [60793]

Justine Greening: The OBR published the latest official forecast for unemployment at Budget 2011 in March. This forecast was revised since June 2010, to account for new developments in the economy and policies announced at Budget 2011.

The OBR forecast at Budget 2011 was for the unemployment rate to be 8.2% in 2011. Since the latest forecast was published, the unemployment rate has fallen from 7.9% to 7.7%.

Tax: Equality

22. **Caroline Lucas:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on equality of the UK tax system. [60794]

Mr Gauke: The Government have taken significant steps to improve tax policy making since coming into office. This has included a new approach to impact analysis for tax measures. The Government now publish a Tax Information and Impact Note for individual tax policy changes. These explicitly include an assessment of the equalities impact of each individual measure.

Inland Revenue: Merger

24. **Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the merger between the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise. [60796]

Mr Gauke: No formal review has been conducted. HMRC has faced a number of significant challenges since its formation in 2005 but it plays a vital role in restoring public finances through the tax it collects.

This is why we invested over £900 million in HMRC at the spending review, which is planned to bring in an additional £7 billion of revenue a year.

Charity Bequests

Mrs Grant: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures he is taking to encourage bequests to charities. [60795]

Justine Greening: The philanthropy package announced at Budget represents the most radical and generous reforms to charitable giving for more than 20 years. The package is expected to increase funding to charities by around £600 million over the life of this Parliament by making it easier for people to give to charity and for charities to benefit from that gift.

To help foster a culture of charitable bequests, from April 2012 we will allow a 10% reduction in inheritance tax where 10% or more of an estate is left to charity, encouraging people to consider increasing existing bequests, and to promote a discussion of legacies when people make or alter their wills.

The Treasury is currently consulting on this measure and welcomes responses from interested parties.

Aggregates Levy: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that those who import stone to Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland are aware of their liability for the aggregates levy. [60455]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury and Northern Ireland Executive Ministers hold regular discussions on issues of taxation, including ways to improve compliance.

In addition, HM Revenue and Customs have issued a news briefing drawing attention to the responsibility of those who import stone to Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland to register and account for the aggregates levy. This has been widely reported in the Northern Ireland press.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the aggregates levy on the competitiveness of the quarrying industry in Northern Ireland. [60456]

Justine Greening: A Government-sponsored report produced by the Symonds Group in October 2003 confirmed that the introduction of the aggregates levy in 2002 had put firms in the Northern Ireland aggregates industry in a more difficult competitive position than expected.

This resulted in the introduction in April 2004 of the aggregates levy credit scheme, which granted an 80% relief to producers who entered into environmental agreements with the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment. The Government are working with the Northern Ireland Executive to establish the impact of the suspension of the credit scheme on the quarrying industry there, and to gather data to support efforts to have it reinstated.

Anne Frank Trust UK

Mr Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech he gave at 11 Downing street to mark the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Anne Frank Trust UK; and if he will make a statement. [60475]

Justine Greening: In accordance with the 'Ministerial Code', and in line with the practice of previous Administrations, the Treasury is content for 11 Downing street to be used as a venue for events by charities, as long as those are not used for commercial, fundraising or sponsorship purposes. The Chancellor was pleased to host the Anne Frank Trust 20th anniversary event on 1 June. He did not make a speech at the event. Speeches made by Treasury Ministers are available via the Treasury website.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60713]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sector as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60902]

Justine Greening: The Department has in place policies and guidance covering all forms of visual data security, which is provided to staff on the Treasury intranet. This covers such things as protective markings, the handling and storage of sensitive information and assets, adhering to the Treasury's clear desk policy, and the monitoring and reporting of any security related incidents. Reminders are issued periodically.

All new staff are made aware of the importance of visual data security during their induction training, and all staff also have to undertake a mandatory e-learning course on an annual basis.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Crockart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of parliamentary questions for written answer his Department answered within 28 days of the date set down for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [58540]

Justine Greening: As of 31 May, 4,555 of the 4,654 written parliamentary questions tabled to the Treasury in the current session (98%) had received substantive replies within 28 days.

East Midlands

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect contribution to (i) the economy, (ii) employment and (iii) the public finances of offices of Government departments and agencies in (A) Derby, (B) Leicester and (C) Nottingham. [60666]

Danny Alexander: We do not hold information on the direct and indirect contributions that Government Departments and agencies make to the economy, employment and the public finances in Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.

However, there are publicly available data that show the direct contribution that the public sector as a whole makes to employment. Data from 2008 (latest available) show the following numbers of public sector employees:

	Number
Derby	27,300
Leicester	38,000
Nottingham	49,100

There are also publicly available data on the contribution that these places as a whole make to the UK economy. Gross value added (GVA) figures, which measure a place's contribution to the UK economy according to the value of goods and services it produces, show that: Derby contributed nearly £5.5 billion, Leicester contributed £6.2 billion, and Nottingham contributed over £7.6 billion to the UK economy in 2008 (latest data available).

The datasets referred to above are available from:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ppse/index.asp

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=14650

Financial Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, on financial services, if he will publish the letters sent by the remuneration committee chair of each bank confirming its commitments as part of Project Merlin have been met. [60563]

Mr Hoban: The Government are closely monitoring the banks' progress in meeting the commitments made under Project Merlin, and will provide further information at the appropriate time.

Financial Services: Taxation

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on proposals to introduce a financial transaction tax to raise funds for overseas development assistance. [60569]

Mr Hoban: The Government of France have announced that discussion of financial transactions taxes will be one of their priorities for their presidency of the G20 this year. In addition, as requested by ECOFIN, the European Commission is currently preparing an impact assessment on financial sector taxation, including financial transactions taxes.

The UK Government believe a financial transactions tax would need to be applied globally to prevent the relocation of financial services and are willing to engage in further international discussions of such taxes.

This Government remain committed to the international development agenda. In the spending review, the Government announced their plans to meet the international commitment for official development assistance of 0.7% of gross national income from 2013. We believe that the debate on innovative financing options for development should not distract from member states' official development assistance commitments.

National Insurance Contributions

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the merits of extending the national insurance contributions holiday to all businesses who employ less than four staff members. [60380]

Mr Gauke: The Government have considered the case for extending the national insurance contributions holiday to all existing micro businesses.

The Government believe the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

New Businesses: Northampton

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many new businesses have been set up in Northampton South constituency since the introduction of the national insurance contributions holiday; [60557]

(2) how many new businesses he estimated would be set up in Northampton South constituency as a result of the national insurance contributions holiday for new small businesses. [60626]

Mr Gauke: Information on how many new businesses have been set up in individual constituencies is not available.

The NICs holiday scheme is designed to support new businesses in their first year by reducing the costs of hiring staff. It provides a benefit to new businesses by increasing incentives to take on employees and improving the likelihood of business survival in the potentially vulnerable early stages.

No estimates were made for the number of businesses that would take up the NICs holiday on a constituency level.

Private Finance Initiative: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative projects there are in each parliamentary constituency in Wales. [61282]

Danny Alexander: There are 24 private finance initiative (PFI) projects in Wales. Details of each project are available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

These data were updated in March 2011 and were provided by the Welsh Assembly. They have not been audited by the Treasury.

Constituency	*Number of PFI projects*
Aberavon	1
Caerphilly	1
Cardiff South and Penarth	2
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire	2
Ceredigion	1
Clwyd West	1
Conwy	2
Islwyn	1
Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney	1
Monmouth	4
Newport East	2
Newport West	1
Ogmore	1
Pontypridd	2
Wrexham	1
Ynys Mon	1

Public Sector: Females

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the recession on the number of public sector jobs held by women in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* the UK. [60551]

Danny Alexander: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes quarterly statistics on public sector employment, including a breakdown by region (but not by gender), which are available on a consistent basis from 1999. The latest release can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0611.pdf

Furthermore, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility published, as part of the 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' on 23 March 2011, projections for general government employment to 2015-16, which can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/wordpress/docs/economic_and_fiscal_outlook_23032011.pdf

The OBR has not produced a breakdown by gender, or by region.

Revenue and Customs: Internet

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to improve the comprehensibility of the language used on its websites. [60728]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has implemented a changed approach to dealing with core content on its website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

This entails a customer centric approach to writing and presenting information—writing content in plain English and organising it in a way that is more intuitive for the Department's customers, aiding comprehensibility and accessibility.

Not all areas of the site have been improved in this way, but HMRC has prioritised around subject areas where the Department receives most customer contact such as Income Tax, Pay As You Earn and VAT. This approach is in line with requirements set by the cross departmental sites:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

(which HMRC manages) and

www.direct.gov.uk

Customer feedback is also being used to ensure that this web content continues to be modified and improved on an ongoing basis.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on progress of negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan. [61008]

Alistair Burt: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 903W.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the progress of the Afghan High Council for Peace in negotiating a political reconciliation with the Taliban. [61009]

Alistair Burt: Since its establishment in October last year, the High Peace Council has convened governors' roadshows in provinces across Afghanistan to take forward the reintegration of former fighters into mainstream communities. It has also undertaken outreach visits to Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. High Peace Council Chairman Rabbani accompanied President Karzai during his visit to Pakistan on 10 June and participated in the inaugural meeting of Afghanistan and Pakistan's Joint Commission for Peace and Reconciliation.

Afghanistan: Taliban

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on sanctions against members of the Taliban in Afghanistan. [60035]

Mr Hague: I have had a number of discussions in recent weeks regarding the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 sanctions regime with our UN Security Council partners. These have included the need to ensure that the sanctions regime is an effective tool with which to counter the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Bahrain: Motor Sports

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the Federation International de l'Automobile on the Bahrain Grand Prix. [60033]

Mr Hague: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 904W.

Colombia: Human Rights

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Colombian counterpart on Carmelo Agamez; and what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Colombia. [60566]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Mr Agamez has been held in detention since 15 November 2008. Our Embassy in Bogota has made numerous representations in respect of his case and the delay in bringing it to trial. There is still no date set for Mr Agamez's trial. While we cannot interfere directly in the Colombian judicial system we continue to express our concern about the delay, which is extreme.

Our increased engagement with Latin America and strategic partnership with Colombia provide a platform on which we can engage fully with the Colombian Government, including on human rights. I visited Colombia in May and took the opportunity to emphasise to President Santos the importance we continue to place on human rights. During my meeting with Vice President Garzon he reassured me of the determination of the Colombian Government to create a culture of zero tolerance for human rights violations. I expressed our full support, but also stressed that much remained to be done. There are some signs of improvement; extrajudicial killings have reduced significantly over the past two years and a Victims and Land Restitution Bill which will return land to those from whom it was forcibly removed was recently signed into law. Despite these positive advances significant challenges remain. We will continue to raise our human rights concerns with the Colombian Government, including in relation to individuals who have been detained for long periods without trial.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60718]

Mr Bellingham: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have responsibility for any of the areas arising from the review of employment law.

English Language

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the population of *(a)* Brazil, *(b)* the Russian Federation, *(c)* India and *(d)* China who speak English. [56333]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not routinely collect or hold information on the numbers of English speakers in Brazil, the Russian Federation, India or China.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's officials are working on post-conflict planning for Libya. [60079]

Mr Hague: It is crucial that the international system starts planning early to help the Libyan people stabilise a future peace. Stabilisation Response Teams (SRT) provide an integrated and bespoke approach to post-conflict stabilisation, reconstruction and development.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working with Whitehall partners in supporting and planning for post-conflict efforts in Libya. Within the FCO, there are a range of departments contributing to this work. There are also seven UK personnel working on post-conflict planning in the SRT and elsewhere in Libya.

An SRT, comprising UK and international staff, travelled to eastern Libya in late May to assess and set out a well coordinated and effective response to the needs of the Libyan people by the international community in coordination with the UN. The International SRT is due to report to the international community in July. The UK is also working closely with a range of partners on post-conflict planning, including NATO, the UN, the EU and the Libya Contact Group.

Libya: Politics and Government

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of the Transitional National Council in Libya on outstanding issues relating to Libya's past involvement in IRA terrorism. [60641]

Alistair Burt: At the request of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have met members of the National Transitional Council in London and Benghazi to discuss a range of subjects, including Libya's past involvement in IRA terrorism.

Libya: UN Resolutions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the enforcement of the non-military aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [56321]

Mr Hague: The arms embargo, flight ban and asset freeze mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1973 have all played an important role in putting pressure on the Qadhafi regime. It is also significant that the resolution sets out international condemnation of the regime's conduct and the individual identification of its worst members.

Maldives: Embassies

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the merits of *(a)* establishing a British High Commission in the Maldives and *(b)* appointing an official to facilitate visa processing for Maldivian students who wish to study in the UK. [59952]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have no plans to open a high commission in Maldives. There is an Honorary Consul in Malé who handles any urgent consular issues on behalf of our high commission in Colombo which has formal responsibility for Maldives. Staff at our high commission undertake regular visits to Maldives, most recently on 8-9 June 2011.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) lead on visa policy and operations. We understand that the system UKBA put in place last year, with a dedicated time-slot for Maldivian student applications, was successful and will be repeated again this year.

North Africa: International Assistance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* source and *(b)* year of expenditure will be of the assistance to Egypt and Tunisia agreed at the recent G8 Deauville summit. [60080]

Mr Hague: At the Deauville summit on 26-27 May, the G8 agreed that multilateral development banks, including the World Bank, African Development Bank and European Investment Bank, could provide over $20 billion for Egypt and Tunisia in support of suitable reform efforts, for the period 2011-13.

Press TV

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the role of the Press TV television station; and if he will make a statement. [60224]

Mr Hague: We are concerned by the programmes and reporting of Iranian state-sponsored Press TV. Not only is much of the channel's output inaccurate and biased, but it has filmed and broadcast the forced confessions obtained under duress of individuals detained in Iran without access to fair trial. One such broadcast led to a complaint which was recently investigated and upheld by Ofcom, the UK's independent communications industry regulator. We are deeply concerned that Press TV appears complicit in such human rights violations.

Sri Lanka: Minority Groups

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the representation of minorities in state institutions in Sri Lanka. [61134]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government have made clear their concerns about the treatment of minorities in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Government themselves have identified the need to increase minority representation in key state bodies and are also seeking to ensure more state officials are able to speak Tamil. During 2010, the police force launched recruitment drives to attract 1,500 Tamil civilians into the police force. In parallel, our high commission in Colombo has funded a number of projects to train more police officers to speak Tamil.

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the implementation of the UN Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka. [60074]

Mr Hague: We welcomed the publication of the UN Panel's Report and encourage Sri Lanka to act on the report's recommendations to lead to a process of accountability. The Report suggests that both the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were involved in potential violations of international law.

The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), Minister for South Asia, spoke to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 14 June to make it clear that his Government needs to address the allegations of war crimes and that we expect to see progress on this by the end of the year. If the Sri Lankan Government does not respond, we will support the international community in revisiting all options available to press the Sri Lankan Government to fulfil its obligations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of *(a)* anti-Semitism and *(b)* anti-Semitic incidents his Department uses; what discussions he has had with the Jewish community on its definition since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [60424]

Andrew Stunell: We recognise that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' working definition of anti-Semitism is a useful tool in helping to identify anti-Semitic discourse and is used by a number of agencies for this purpose. Officials discussed the definition with representatives of the Jewish community on 6 and 20 June. The UK Government use the Macpherson definition of a racist incident, one that is perceived as racist by the victim or any other person, and this would include anti-Semitism.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of his Department's employees categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* number of employees taking voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [57616]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

The Department for Communities and Local Government already publishes detailed headcount data, senior salaries and organograms and financial, property and procurement information with the Office for National Statistics and in conjunction with the wider commitment to publish data via HM Treasury for publication on the data.gov.uk website.

DCLG has not yet taken a decision on the merits of including this additional level of detail, on a monthly basis.

Energy: Planning

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he received a request from *(a)* members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss planning issues relating to energy in Wales and its territorial waters. [57470]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Wales Office to discuss a range of matters.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government did not receive any meeting requests from members of the Welsh Assembly Government between 6 May and 20 May 2011.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on enterprise zones: non-domestic rates, on which date discussions began; and on which date each area was informed it would be an enterprise zone. [60675]

Robert Neill: Officials began discussions with some local authorities and local enterprise partnerships about the possible location of enterprise zones in March 2011. This followed decisions by the Chancellor about the criteria that should be used to select local enterprise partnership areas. Local enterprise partnerships were notified of the final decision to announce enterprise zones for their area on 23 March at Budget.

Enterprise Zones: Broadband

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 42W, what discussions on what dates he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on superfast broadband in enterprise zones. [60671]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss a range of matters.

Officials in both departments wrote to local enterprise partnerships on 10 June outlining how superfast broadband will be rolled out in enterprise zones.

Enterprise Zones: Non-domestic Rates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on enterprise zones: non-domestic rates, if he will estimate the monetary value of business rates to be retained by local authorities over the 25 years following the establishment of the enterprise zones set out in The Plan for Growth taking account of the location, size and nature of successful bids. [60672]

Robert Neill: As I outlined in my previous answer, this rate retention will depend on the location, size and nature of the successful bids, among other factors. The Department has received 29 expressions of interest for an enterprise zone from local enterprise partnerships, and final bids are due by the 30 June 2011. Successful bids will be announced by the end of July 2011.

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's public bodies utilise the Government Procurement Card; since what date each has been authorised to utilise the card; and how many cards were on issue in his Department and each of its public bodies in April 2010. [59217]

Robert Neill: The Department's public bodies have autonomy over the payment methods they may use and hence use the Government Procurement Card without authorisation. The number of public bodies which utilise the card and the number of cards that may be on issue, is not held centrally and could be supplied at only disproportionate cost.

The Department itself had 74 cards in issue as of April 2010.

As recommended by Sir Philip Green's report into Government efficiency, my Department has put in place more robust checks and balances over the use of the Government Procurement Card.

Land: Hexham

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans he has for the disposal for housing development of unused state-owned land in Hexham constituency; and what timetable has been set for any such disposal; [60439]

(2) whether he has any plans for the future use or disposal of the former Stannington hospital site in Hexham constituency. [60440]

Grant Shapps: On 8 June I announced plans to accelerate the release of public sector land for housing, and alongside this the Homes and Communities Agency published their development and land disposal strategy at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/sites/default/files/our-work/hca_development_and_land_disposal_strategy.pdf

In the autumn, all major landholding departments will publish their plans to release land for housing development, and later this year a new map will be launched to show land and buildings owned by public bodies in each area.

In respect of the Stannington hospital site, the Homes and Communities Agency has been working with the local planning authority to investigate possible alternative uses for it, and these investigations should be completed by the summer.

Local Government Finance: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to Sunderland council in each of the last five years. [60381]

Robert Neill: The total grant funding allocated by the Department of Communities and Local Government to Sunderland council is as follows:

Sunderland

	£000
2005-06	308,043
2006-07	164,933
2007-08	168,492
2008-09	200,696
2009-10	205,252

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of:

formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates);

specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services) (only includes grants from this Department);

specific grants outside Aggregate External Finance (only includes grants from this Department);

Area Based Grant (from 2008-09); and

'other grants' provided by all Government Departments.

These figures are taken from revenue outturn forms provided by authorities after the end of a financial year. Figures for formula grant, Area Based Grant and other grants are aggregated grants for all Government Departments.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and changes to funding methodology.

Mobile Homes

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases related to park homes *(a)* have been heard and *(b)* are scheduled to be heard in the next two months by the Residential Property Tribunal Service. [59971]

Grant Shapps: On 30 April 2011 residential property tribunals (RPTs) took over most of the adjudication role that was formally exercised by county courts in respect of disputes between residents and site owners under the Mobile Homes Act 1983. RPTs *(a)* have not determined any applications to date and *(b)* have received five applications which are scheduled to be determined within the next two months.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to protect vulnerable residents of park home sites from unscrupulous site owners; [60135]

(2) what progress he has made on his plans to consult on improving the buying and selling process for park homes; [60136]

(3) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North East Derbyshire of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W, on mobile homes, what progress he has made on measures to improve the licensing regime that applies to park home sites to enable local authorities to more effectively ensure that the health and safety of residents are better protected. [60137]

Grant Shapps: I announced on 10 February 2011 my proposal to consult on a range of measures to improve the licensing regime which applies to park home and caravan sites so local authorities are better equipped and resourced to tackle problems of poor management in the sector and so better protect the health and safety of residents. I also announced that my plan to consult on improvements to the buying and selling process of park homes to prevent the unacceptable practice of the blocking of lawful sales by unscrupulous site owners and to provide an effective means of redress for residents where this happens. In May my officials and I met with key industry and resident partners, and my officials met separately with local authority partners and representatives of holiday caravan owners, to help inform the consultation and gain a better understanding of the expectations and aspirations of our partners in this sector of the housing market. I plan to publish the consultation in the summer.

National Planning Policy Framework

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to ensure that the National Planning Policy Framework will provide the same level of protection to pubs as National Planning Policy Statements. [60976]

Robert Neill: The National Planning Policy Framework will be a consolidated and more concise expression of national planning policies, but will include policy on safeguarding community facilities, including pubs. The draft Framework will be published for consultation shortly.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1182W, on non-domestic rates, if he will estimate the average net rate yield per hereditament in England for each of the next four years. [60673]

Robert Neill: No estimates have been made of the net rate yield per hereditament in England for the next four years.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, Official *Report*, column 1182W, on non-domestic rates, what the net yield per hereditament was in *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* parliamentary constituency in England in each year between 1997-98 and 2010-11. [60676]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the average national non-domestic rates yield per hereditament in each local authority area in England for the period 1998-99 to 2010-11.

The data, which refer to the local lists only, are taken from national non-domestic rates returns submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

Average non-domestic rates are calculated by dividing the net rate yield, after deductions for reliefs, from local authorities' lists by the number of hereditaments on local lists as at 31 December of the previous year. The net yield is the total amount collected in the year irrespective of the year to which it relates. Comparisons across years should be treated with caution as figures will reflect changes in the number and type of hereditaments as well as changes to rateable values and multipliers.

Data are collected at local authority level and it is not possible to provide data at constituency level.

Planning Permission: Wind Power

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will produce national planning guidance on planning considerations in respect of small wind farms. [60987]

Robert Neill: The National Planning Policy Framework will set out the Government's priorities for the planning system, including on renewable energy. We will consult on the Framework shortly.

Planning: Enforcement

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds of the number of section 215 enforcement notices that have been issued by each local authority in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [60354]

Robert Neill: My Department does not collect information on the number of section 215 notices issued by local authorities in England. The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for policy and legislation on section 215 notices in Wales.

Public Houses

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps the Asset Transfer Unit has taken to *(a)* publicise measures to enable communities to take over pubs and *(b)* provide information for communities on taking over pubs; [60979]

(2) how many pubs have been taken over by community groups under the Asset Transfer scheme to date; and if he will make a statement. [60980]

Robert Neill: No pubs have transferred under the Advancing Assets programme which was managed by the Asset Transfer Unit and funded by the DCLG between 2007 and 2011, and which has focussed on local authority assets. The DCLG continues to fund the unit to provide advice and guidance mainly to local authorities and community groups to assist the transfer of publicly owned assets to the community. The unit rarely advise groups seeking to take over pubs, and have done so only on three occasions since January.

Pubs are extremely important assets for this country, contributing to the economy and providing local jobs. They can also provide local hubs that strengthen community relationships and encourage wider social action.

The Government want to help to protect local pubs where they are important community assets, and to ensure that they are working in the best interests of the communities they serve. The Government have introduced provisions in the Localism Bill for a Community Right to Buy to give community groups a fairer chance to bid to buy assets of community value (which could include, for example, the last pub in a village) by being able to nominate such assets for listing, and having the time to prepare a bid for listed assets when they are put up for sale.

We are strongly supportive of the work of organisations which advise community groups seeking to acquire pubs, for example, the Pub is the Hub and the Plunkett Foundation, both of which offer advice and guidance and disseminate good practice to community groups wishing to take over and manage pubs.

We are currently considering the use of a number of social finance initiatives (such as the development of community shares and the big society bank) which will make it easier for community organisations to gain the necessary finance without reliance on central Government grants.

Tenant Services Authority: Government Procurement

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Fleetwood of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 149W, on the Tenant Services Authority: Government Procurement Card, what *(a)* the venue was and *(b)* suppliers were procured by the Tenants Services Authority through the Government Procurement Card for the Manchester away day team building event in December 2009. [59214]

Andrew Stunell: The venue for the Tenant Services Authority away day in December 2009 was the organisation's offices in Manchester. The only item procured using the Government Procurement Card on this occasion was refreshments, which were supplied by the City Inn Manchester.

The Government have now put in place spending protocols which will prevent unnecessary expenditure of this nature in the future. The Tenant Services Authority is being abolished as a result of the arm's length bodies review.

Trade Unions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Fire Service College, *(c)* Ordnance Survey, *(d)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(e)* the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre are entitled to work (i) full-time as trade union representatives and (ii) part-time on trade union

activities; how many such staff are paid more than £25,900 annually; and what the cost to the public purse of employing such staff on such duties was in the latest period for which figures are available. [56436]

Robert Neill: Neither my Department nor any of the other bodies for which information has been requested specify the number of full-time or part-time trade union representative roles within the organisation. Rather, DCLG, Ordnance Survey and the Planning Inspectorate each set a maximum level of facility time which is available for trade union activities and a maximum number of full-time and part-time roles which are permitted within that maximum allocation. Neither the Fire Service College nor the QEII Conference Centre set a formal facility time allowance, and currently the QEII Conference Centre has no official union representatives.

The Department and its agencies do not pay any money directly to the trade unions representing staff. The Department pays the salary and related costs (travel and subsistence etc.) for a number of DCLG staff undertaking trade unions activities in this Department on a full and part-time basis.

These are arrangements the current Government have inherited from the last Administration.

Against that backdrop, the position for each of the bodies is set out in the following table.

	Department for Communities and Local Government	*Fire Service College*	*Ordnance Survey*	*Planning Inspectorate*	*QEII Conference Centre*
Overall 2011-12 facility time allocation (days)	1,000	0	1,125	685	0
Maximum permitted full-time representatives	2	[1]—	1	1	0
Actual number of full-time representatives	2	0	1	1	0
Maximum permitted part-time representatives	4	[1]—	3	1	0
Actual number of part-time representatives	4	0	3	1	0
Relevant staff paid over £25,900	5	0	1	1	0
Total cost (£)	152,000-157,000	0	75,000-80,000	60,000-65,000	0

[1] No official limit in place

In compiling this information:

We have defined 'part-time' as individuals who spend at least one dedicated day per week on union activities as part of their normal role. On that basis, we have excluded all staff who undertake union activities on an ad hoc basis within the overall facility time allowance; and

The total cost figures are full year figures for 2010-11. For DCLG, the costs are what the full year costs would have been if the same post holders had been in place for the full year (ie not allowing for vacancies and changes in post holder during the year).

Youth Services: Manpower

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the number of detached youth workers in local authorities who have been made redundant since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [61039]

Robert Neill: The Department has made no such estimate. Detailed local government pay and work force issues—including staff efficiencies—are rightly matters for individual councils as local employers. Policy on youth services is not a matter for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people in Bexley who live in areas with low-speed broadband. [60458]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is assessing current broadband provision at community level across the UK in its work to deliver the coalition Government's objective to facilitate universal broadband access of at least 2 Mbps and achieve the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

BDUK does not hold data on the number of people with low-speed broadband by constituency. However, BDUK estimates that the number of premises in the London borough of Bexley with a connection speed of less than 2 Mbps is 2,200, out of a total number of approximately 98,500 premises.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people in North East Hertfordshire constituency who live in areas with low-speed broadband. [60516]

Mr Vaizey: The North East Hertfordshire constituency has 42,451 premises. Of these premises, approximately 8% receive less than 2 Mbps and 4% receive less than 0.5 Mbps.

Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) defines a premise with less than 2 Mbps as a "slowspot" (the figure above includes those premises with less than 0.5 Mbps). BDUK defines a premise with less than 0.5 Mbps as a "notspot".

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business,

Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60706]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State For Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not held discussions with officials, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills or outside organisations on the effects of the potential implementation of changes arising from the review of employment law.

Contracts: Businesses

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of contracts let by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to companies in (i) Wales and (ii) Aberavon constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [60508]

John Penrose: During the accounting period 2010-11, the Department and its agency awarded no contracts in Wales or the Aberavon constituency, but all contracts were made available for companies and organisations to bid for where services and goods were not secured through framework agreements. The Department does however have an on-going contract in Newport.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many staff were employed by non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [61329]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The information requested is not held by this Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of our public bodies.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executives of each public body to write directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials his Department employs. [61332]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As at 20 June 2011, my Department employed 461.3 full-time equivalents.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60192]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has adopted the following initiatives to encourage small and medium businesses to bid for Government contracts:

No pre-qualification questionnaires in order to ensure the procurement and tendering process is easier for smaller organisations;

Advertise all procurements over £10,000 on the website Contracts Finder;

The external website clearly shows procurement contacts and telephone numbers if small and medium enterprises wish to contact procurement direct;

DCMS have also agreed to provide a mentoring and advice service to other central Departments and its own non-departmental public bodies, drawing on its experience of working with small and medium enterprises and processes used to increase the level of small and medium enterprises participation in its business.

Early indications are that the progress made by the Department will exceed the Government's aspiration of 25% during the last financial year.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60339]

John Penrose: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport introduced through statutory instrument a package of three regulatory measures to implement the revised EU electronic communications framework.

Electronic Communications: The Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive)(Amendment) Regulation 2011

Electronic Communications: The Electronic Communications (Universal Service)(Amendment) Order 2011

Electronic Communications: The Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011

The annual equivalent cost of these measures on business is approximately £8 million.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60499]

Mr Vaizey: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport introduced The Multiplex Licence (Broadcasting of Programmes in Gaelic) (Revocation) Order 2011.

There has been no impact on business or the civil society.

FIFA

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with members of the FIFA Executive Committee on reform of the governance structure of FIFA. [60464]

Hugh Robertson: Recent events have shown that FIFA must become much more transparent and accountable for the good of the worldwide game. Sepp Blatter has said that the 'football family' will get FIFA's house in order and I am sure our FA will play a key part in that. I will support them in whatever way they feel is most helpful. In the meantime I will also continue to press for change in partnership with other European Sports Ministers.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the reform of FIFA. [61336]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have begun working to ensure that the governance of football, and specifically FIFA, is considered at the next EU Sports Ministers meeting under the Polish presidency.

Internet: Pornography

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on a requirement for the use of blocking software by internet users to prevent the viewing of pornography. [60960]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Both I and the Government are committed to ensuring children can use the internet safely. I have already had a number of roundtables with the ISPs to look at creating a voluntary code to protect children from viewing potentially harmful websites.

The Government chairs the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) which is responsible for ensuring children are protected from harmful and inappropriate content when online.

Through UKCCIS, we are working with industry to ensure that all consumers are able to make an active choice at point of sale, or when they first switch on their internet-enabled technologies, if they want parental control filters to be activated. This approach was also recommended in the recently published Bailey Review.

Olympic Games 2012

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games has received on the suitability of Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire as a location on the route for the London 2012 Olympics torch. [60010]

Hugh Robertson: On 18 May 2011 the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) announced the torch relay's 66 evening celebrations and six of the island visits. LOCOG is now proceeding with the detailed planning of the route for the morning and afternoons of each day, to ensure that the torch comes within an hour's journey of 95% of the UK population.

This is being done in consultation with stakeholders across the UK in every region. The route for the west midlands will be agreed following engagement with stakeholders across the region, including local authorities. The route will be finalised and announced later this year.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games on the proportion of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics that were available in the UK ballot. [60457]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company independent of Government, but it has kept me informed of their ticketing strategy as it has developed. LOCOG's aims have been to raise the revenues it requires to stage the Games; to provide affordable and accessible tickets; and to deliver full venues. Of the 8.8 million tickets available for the Olympic Games, 75% are being made available through the UK application process to the public. Of these, 2.5 million will be £20 or under.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to prevent disruption to residents over the course of the London 2012 Olympics. [60721]

Hugh Robertson: Following the good work of the Olympic Delivery Authority during the build phase, all 2012 delivery partners are clear that they wish to continue to minimise inconvenience to local residents. However, given the scale of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, some disruption is inevitable.

It will be 'business as unusual' in the summer of 2012. Transport for London are currently engaging with businesses to explain the transport challenges that the capital will face with the increase of spectators next summer. There will be a public information campaign next year. There has been public consultation on the Olympic and Paralympic route networks which affect just 0.1% of London roads. Extensive consultation and engagement with people who may be affected by the Olympic Transport Plan has been under way since the first version was published in 2007, with the most recent version being published on 1 June. Minimising the impact on business as usual is at the heart of the transport operations being delivered for the games.

Games venues that require planning consent have been put forward for pre-consultation setting out potential disruptions, and measures to mitigate them. Plans have then been adapted based on feedback from the local community.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many tickets for the London 2012 Olympics have been allocated to sponsors at no charge. [60719]

Hugh Robertson: There are no free tickets. As part of its contract with LOCOG, each commercial partner has the right to purchase at face-value a small number of tickets to attend the Games. Some 8% of tickets are available to sponsors and stakeholders, but these do not come from the 75% of tickets available through the UK application process to the public.

The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company independent of Government, and must raise the revenues it requires to stage the Games. Revenues raised through sponsorship are an essential component of this funding, providing around £700 million of LOCOG's £2 billion budget.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to prevent the illegal reselling of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics. [60726]

Hugh Robertson: We are committed to ensuring that illegal touting of tickets does not spoil the Games. The London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Amendment) Bill, currently before Parliament, proposes increasing the maximum penalty for illegal reselling of Games tickets from £5,000 to £20,000.

In addition, the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Metropolitan Police Service's dedicated unit to respond to serious and organised crime networks targeting the Games economy—Operation Podium—are working to deal with organised ticket crime, counterfeiting and Olympic-related fraud.

Through the UK application process, LOCOG's ticketing system will help to make sure that tickets get into the hands of fans who will want to attend. For a variety of reasons, some people will however want to sell their tickets. LOCOG's resale platform, the official London 2012 ticket exchange website, will be available early next year for anyone wishing to sell or exchange the tickets that they purchased. This will be the only legal selling mechanism and will provide a safe and secure gateway without resort to touting.

LOCOG is urging people to beware of unauthorised websites which claim to sell tickets to London 2012, and to use their website checker on:

http://www.tickets.london2012.com

to confirm whether a website is genuine or not.

Paralympic Games 2012

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of disabled access for *(a)* athletes and *(b)* the public to venues for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and if he will make a statement. [60536]

Hugh Robertson: Inclusive design has been incorporated from the start of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) design process, so that the Olympic Park, Olympic Village, and new transport services, will be accessible to people with a wide range of disabilities both during and after the games.

The ODA has adopted a Built Environment Access Panel (BEAP) and Access and Inclusion Forum (AIF), who have worked closely with designers to build accessible solutions into the designs. All planning applications have included 'Access Statements'—bringing accessibility and inclusive design into the planning process.

In 2008 the ODA published its Inclusive Design Strategy and Standards setting out the framework for how the Olympic Park will be designed and constructed to be inclusive to all. This can be found at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/oda-publications/inclusive-design-standards.pdf

The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for staging both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and will ensure that they will be as accessible and inclusive as possible. LOCOG's approach has been to adopt accessible solutions throughout, which minimises the need for any transition in athletes' facilities from an 'Olympic' to a 'Paralympic' mode. LOCOG works closely with the International Paralympic Committee which visits London every six months to run through all the plans in detail, including venues, accommodation and transport. In addition, LOCOG has its own Athletes' Committee to ensure athletes' interests are represented.

LOCOG's ambition is for disabled spectators to have a great games experience equivalent to non-disabled people. They have involved communities of disabled people as it has developed tailored services and products, and appointed an Accessibility Manager to lead on this area. Accessibility initiatives can be found on the London 2012 website at the following link:

http://www.london2012.com/accessibility

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of the London 2012 Paralympics on the participation of disabled people in sport; and if he will make a statement. [60537]

Hugh Robertson: I have asked Sport England to ensure that increasing disability participation is a key part of both the Places, People, Play legacy programme and in the development of their over-arching plan for the new strategy period of 2011-15. Through the School Games there will be increased opportunities for disabled pupils to compete on a local, regional and national level.

Paralympic Games 2012: Tourism

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics on the tourism industry in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [60538]

Hugh Robertson: Responsibility for tourism policy in Wales lies with the Welsh Government, they are working closely with VisitWales and VisitBritain to maximise the opportunities provided by London 2012. Through VisitBritain, DCMS has established a new £100 million overseas tourism marketing campaign which is aiming to deliver an additional 4 million visitors to the UK and £2 billion extra expenditure over the next four years. The whole of the UK will benefit from the campaign, including Wales.

PPL

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will introduce legislative proposals to remove the right of Phonographic Performance Ltd to charge fees for licences for the broadcast of music over the radio in offices not open to members of the public. [60087]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

These licensing issues are within the remit of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable). The UK is obliged under European and international level copyright law to give copyright holders the right to collect licence fees for public performance of their copyright works. Case law in the UK indicates

that public performance includes performance in public spaces, including offices. The Government have no plans to alter this through legislation.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60195]

John Penrose: During the financial year 2010-11, the Department for Culture Media and Sport did not award any contracts to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Scotland over this accounting period. It does however have two ongoing contracts with SMEs in Scotland from the Glasgow area which were awarded at an earlier date.

The Departments agency, The Royal Parks, has not awarded any contracts to SME's during the financial year 2010-11.

Sport England

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance Sport England has provided to community sports clubs and projects in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency since 2010. [60898]

Hugh Robertson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 9 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1088W.

Television: Alcoholic Drinks

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether guidance issued to broadcasters by Ofcom prohibits provision of alcohol to participants aged under 18 years in programmes filmed for television. [60517]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is an operational one for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, my officials spoke to Ofcom, who advised:

Ofcom does not issue specific guidance to broadcasters on this issue. However, under Ofcom's Broadcasting Code due care must be taken over the physical and emotional welfare and the dignity of people under 18 who take part or are otherwise involved in programmes. This is irrespective of any consent given by the participant or by a parent, guardian or other person over the age of 18 in loco parentis. As well as this, programmes must not include material (whether in individual programmes or in programmes taken together) which, taking into account the context, condones or glamorises violent, dangerous or seriously antisocial behaviour and is likely to encourage others to copy such behaviour.

Tourism: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department allocated to the promotion of tourism in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* England in 2010-11. [60260]

John Penrose: The Department sponsors VisitBritain, which is charged with promoting Britain overseas, and VisitEngland, which is responsible for promoting England within the UK and to selected overseas markets. Total grant in aid in 2010-11 was £38.92 million, with £29.37 million allocated to VisitBritain and £9.55 million allocated to VisitEngland. Funding is not apportioned by VisitBritain on a national or regional basis and it is not possible to disaggregate a specific England spend. Funding is not apportioned by VisitEngland on a regional or area-specific basis and it is not possible to disaggregate a specific Yorkshire and Humber spend, but the area is an important asset in the overall England offer and receives significant coverage in VisitEngland's marketing campaigns.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process he has set for designating a bail hostel as an approved premises. [60970]

Mr Blunt: Under section 13 of the Offender Management Act 2007, any premises can be approved for the provision of accommodation for people granted bail in criminal proceedings, or for or in connection with the supervision or rehabilitation of offenders. An application for planning permission would be needed as well.

No new Approved Premises have been developed since the commencement of the Offender Management Act 2007. A new detailed Specification and Manual for Approved Premises services have been issued this year and will form the basis for the commissioning of any new Approved Premises in future. The Specification codifies existing instructions and practice; it also covers security, public protection, risk management, and interventions and purposeful activity. A process for approving any new premises in accordance with the Specification will be developed to support the introduction of commissioning.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60716]

Mr Djanogly: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

The Ministry of Justice does not have responsibility for employment-related legislation. However, given our responsibility for administering employment tribunals, and the wider courts system, we have been consulted throughout on the proposals for the review. In particular, we have worked closely with BIS on proposals contained in the Resolving Workplace Disputes consultation, which was a joint exercise with my Department.

Coroners: Reform

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which officials in his Department are involved in the reform of the coroner system. [61011]

Mr Djanogly: Officials within the Ministry's Coroner Change Team are responsible for the implementation of reform of the coroner system. Officials working in other areas of policy that are impacted by coroner reform may also be involved from time to time.

Courts

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in plans to handle in Stevenage county court cases originating with parties resident in North East Hertfordshire constituency; and if he will make a statement. [60753]

Mr Djanogly: The Government undertook a full consultation exercise last year on their proposals to close a number of court houses, including Hitchin county court. As a result of the responses to the consultation exercise funding has been allocated and invested to upgrade an existing courtroom in Stevenage magistrates court to make it suitable for county court work. Following the closure of Hitchin its work will be shared between Bedford, Luton, Cambridge and Stevenage. It is expected that cases such as repossession will typically be heard in Stevenage, sitting as Luton county court, thereby improving the service provided to court users.

The Lord Chancellor's Direction which sets out how Hitchin county court's district will be divided among other county courts can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/bills-and-acts/directions.htm

Courts: Fines

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of financial penalties issued by the courts were collected in each year since 1995; [59915]

(2) how many fines were issued by the courts in each year since 1995; and what the monetary value of such fines was in each such year. [60107]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on the proportion of financial penalties collected is available from centrally held information since 2003-04. This includes monetary value of fines paid and the amount owed, which is set out in the following table.

Prior to 2003-04, different local methods of collecting data for the magistrates courts existed across England and Wales. These data are therefore not directly comparable to those given in the table. For this reason, the table shows the figures from 2003-04 only.

Enforcement of financial penalties 2003-04 to 2010-11

Financial year	*New amount owed[1] (£)*	*Paid[2] (£)*	*Payment rate[3] (%)*	*Payment rate excluding administrative cancellations[4] (%)*
2003-04	366,653,329.16	212,785,348.05	74	—
2004-05	351,746,801.62	221,505,558.19	80	—
2005-06	368,923,934.48	233,332,326.01	83	81
2006-07	364,298,841.54	244,555,539.82	92	80
2007-08	376,569,882.06	256,117,662.65	95	82
2008-09	393,121,638.79	246,519,704.18	85	71
2009-10	406,660,591.18	259,241,082.01	86	74
2010[5]	312,719,840.11	213,916,998.74	92	80

[1] New amount owed is the sum of amounts imposed in the courts plus net transferred amounts

[2] The amount paid is monies received by the courts against any outstanding fine irrespective of age and will not necessarily be for fine amounts imposed in the same period.

[3] The payment rate is calculated by dividing the amount paid to HMCTS over a financial year by the new amount owed less the value of fines legally and net administratively cancelled for the same period.

[4] The payment rate excluding administratively cancelled is only available from 2005 only. Prior to that the data are not comparable due to changes in the way the payment rate was calculated. The payment rate excluding administratively cancelled is calculated by dividing the amount paid to HMCTS over a financial year by the new amount owed less the value of fines legally cancelled for the same period.

[5] April to December only.

Notes:

1. Financial penalties include amounts for fines, costs, prosecution costs, legal aid, victim surcharge, and compensation, unpaid fixed penalties, penalty notices for disorder that are transferred to HMCTS for enforcement.

2. Statistics on the amount paid are published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletins 'Court Statistics Quarterly' and 'Judicial and Court Statistics'. The most recent published data relate to Q4 (October to December) 2010 and were published in Court Statistics Quarterly in March. The figures for Q1 (January to March) 2011 statistics will be published in Court Statistics Quarterly and revised statistics for 2010 (which are currently provisional) will be published on the 30 June 2011.

Source:

HMCTS Performance Database as at 14 June 2011

The information on fines issued, for criminal cases, form part of sentencing information published by the Ministry of Justice in 'Criminal Justice Statistics', covering England and Wales. Information available on fines issued for the period 1995 to 2010 (latest available) is as follows:

	Total number of fines imposed	*Fines imposed in magistrates courts*	*Fines imposed in the Crown court*	*Proportion of all sentences (all courts) (%)*
1995	996,715	992,788	3,927	74
1996	1,073,024	1,069,674	3,350	75
1997	998,672	995,328	3,344	72

	Total number of fines imposed	Fines imposed in magistrates courts	Fines imposed in the Crown court	Proportion of all sentences (all courts) (%)
1998	1,060,743	1,057,490	3,253	72
1999	992,420	989,713	2,707	70
2000	1,013,347	1,010,835	2,512	71
2001	930,121	927,571	2,550	69
2002	972,737	970,384	2,353	69
2003	1,033,617	1,030,918	2,699	69
2004	1,082,690	1,080,236	2,454	70
2005	1,025,064	1,022,710	2,354	69
2006	961,535	959,394	2,141	68
2007	941,534	939,046	2,488	67
2008[1]	890,296	887,976	2,320	65
2009[2]	946,146	943,844	2,302	67
2010	893,931	891,420	2,511	65

[1] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.
[2] Amendments made due to the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Notes:
1. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
These data have been taken from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case; [60329]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60489]

Mr Djanogly: Between 1 March and 31 May 2011, the Ministry of Justice has neither made nor revoked statutory instruments which have regulatory impact.

Drugs: Sentencing

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence for drugs offences in each of the last five years; and what proportion of the prison population this represents. [60846]

Mr Blunt: Defendants sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences, England and Wales, 2006 to 2010, from the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings database, can be seen in table 1.

Population in prison under immediate custodial sentence and proportion serving a sentence for drug offences as at 30 June, England and Wales, 2006-10 from the Ministry of Justice Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Brief publication, can be seen in table 2.

It is not possible to link defendants sentenced from the court proceedings database to those from the prison population database.

Table 1: Defendants sentenced to immediate custody for drugs offences, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2]

	2006	2007	2008[3]	2009	2010
Drug offences	7,532	8,186	9,488	9,426	9,693

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Population in prison under immediate custodial sentence and proportion serving a sentence for drugs offences as at 30 June, England and Wales, 2006-10

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009[1]	2010
Drug offences	10,647	10,613	10,982	10,696	10,420	11,064
Total population	63,404	65,533	68.124	68.375	68.461	70,871
Proportion (%)	16.79	16.19	16.12	15.64	15.22	15.61

[1] Due to the introduction of a new prison IT system the 2010 prison population data is taken from a different source. The 2009 figures from both the old and new system have been presented to aid comparison

Note:
These figures have been drawn from large administrative data systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60697]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following European directives, for which the Ministry of Justice is responsible, were in force on 1 April 2010:

Council Directive 77/249/EEC of 22 March 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

Directive 98/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis in a Member State other than that in which the qualification was obtained.

Council Directive 2002/8/EC of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes.

Council Directive 2004/80/EC of 29 April 2004 relating to compensation to crime victims.

Directive 2008/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on certain aspects of mediation in civil and commercial matters.

One European directive, for which the Ministry of Justice has responsibility, has entered into force since 1 April 2010. That is:

Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions of members of criminal gangs involved in *(a)* trafficking and *(b)* smuggling illegal immigrants into the UK took place in each of the last five years; and what the nationalities of the individuals were in each case. [60506]

Mr Blunt: Data held centrally on the court proceedings database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case, other than that which may be identified from a statute. It is therefore not possible to identify offences where the accused was a member of a criminal gang or identify a defendant's nationality.

Injunctions: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive on super-injunctions. [60632]

Mr Djanogly: No discussions have taken place with representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive on this issue.

Insurance: Fees and Charges

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the payment of referral fees by lawyers and insurance companies to obtain the names and contact details of those involved in accidents; and what representations he has received on the potential effects of such practices on the overall cost of insurance claims. [60427]

Mr Djanogly: The Department has received a number of representations on the payment of referral fees in personal injury cases. The Transport Select Committee and the Legal Services Board have, separately, called for a more transparent regime around referral fees. The Association of British Insurers, among others, has urged the Government to ban referral fees.

Legal Aid

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many acts of assistance were funded by the Legal Services Commission in respect of solicitors in North East Hertfordshire constituency in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and if he will make a statement. [60748]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The following table shows the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within North East Hertfordshire. All acts of assistance are based on the solicitor's location, which may not reflect where the client is based. The data are only available by financial and not calendar year.

North East Hertfordshire constituency

	Crime lower claims	*Legal help new matter starts*	*Civil rep. certificates issues*	*Crime higher cases*
2008-09	733	216	154	90
2009-10	809	273	136	65

Legal Aid: Essex

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal aid matter starts in *(a)* social welfare law, *(b)* family law and *(c)* clinical negligence there were in (i) Harlow constituency and (ii) the west Essex procurement area in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures following implementation of his proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales. [60571]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. The following table shows the numbers of acts of assistance delivered by legal aid providers with postcodes falling within the Harlow constituency in the last three years. Further breakdown by category of law per constituency is not available. All acts of assistance are based on the solicitor's location, which may not reflect where the client is based.

The LSC is currently collating data relating to procurement areas, which will include west Essex. I will write to the hon. Member once the information has been verified and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Harlow constituency

	Crime lower claims	Legal help new matter starts	Civil rep. certificates issues	Crime higher cases
2007-08	3,194	1,403	224	358
2008-09	2,366	1,839	259	240
2009-10	2,417	1,943	377	255

Initial impact assessments were published alongside the legal aid reforms consultation paper in November 2010 and updated versions will be published alongside the Government's response.

Legal Aid: Expenditure

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the net cost to his Department was of civil legal aid after income recouped from statutory charges and recovery of any funds on account in each of the last three years; [60572]

(2) what change in real terms there has been in his Department's funding for civil legal aid in the last 10 years. [60573]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is given in the following table, which shows the real terms net cost of civil legal aid over the last 10 years at 2009-10 prices.

Civil legal aid

	£ million cash[1]
2000-01	998
2001-02	906
2002-03	972
2003-04	1,044
2004-05	957
2005-06	923
2006-07	870
2007-08	882
2008-09	930
2009-10	942

[1] At 2009-10 prices.

Legal Aid: Iraq

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal aid funding has been provided to Iraqi citizens for cases relating to alleged abuse by the UK armed forces in each of the last three years. [60385]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) do not record the nationality of claimants, and so cannot provide comprehensive costs incurred on these cases. Nor are cases specifically recorded or traceable as 'abuse by the UK armed forces'.

Legal Complaints Service

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints originally made to the Legal Complaints Service are awaiting resolution; and how many staff of the Legal Services Ombudsman have been allocated to work on complaints which were made before the abolition of the Legal Complaints Service. [61131]

Mr Djanogly: The latest statistics from the Legal Services Ombudsman show that there 365 cases awaiting resolution. Of these approximately 80% relate to complaints that have been referred to the Legal Services Ombudsman following a determination by the Law Society's Legal Complaints Service.

Some 15.5 (full-time equivalent) members of staff from the Office for Legal Complaints have been seconded to the office of the Legal Services Ombudsman to complete complaint cases during the closure of this latter function.

Mental Health Secure Units

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions mental health secure units have requested permission from his Department to hold unescorted visits for patients in the latest period for which figures are available; and on how many such occasions the request was *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected. [60937]

Mr Blunt: The Public Protection and Mental Health Group (PPMHG) in the National Offender Management Service received 1,765 requests for unescorted community leave, for restricted patients, between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010. Of those, PPMHG, on behalf of the Secretary of State, authorised leave in 1,581, with the remaining 184 being refused. Any decision to allow a restricted patient leave into the community is taken only after a full risk assessment based on up to date medical evidence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offences against Children

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process was used to impose a Ministerial restriction on admissions to Bunbury House in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire that excludes the residence of offenders who have committed any sexual offence against a child under 16 years of age. [60967]

Mr Blunt: In response to public concern about the proximity of some Approved Premises to schools, Ministers decided in 2006 that child sex offenders should be excluded from Approved Premises which are directly adjacent to a school or a nursery. The exclusion applies to those offenders who have committed sex offences against children under 16 and includes offenders convicted of child-related internet offences.

Bunbury House is directly adjacent to a primary school and, therefore, the ministerial decision in 2006 confirmed a pre-existing local policy to exclude child sex offenders there.

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on assessing whether offenders who have committed a sexual offence against a child who is under 16 years of age may be excluded from admission to an approved premises. [60968]

Mr Blunt: The decision to admit any offender to a particular Approved Premises is based upon an individual assessment of the risk of serious harm posed by the offender to the public, to any previous victim(s) and to other residents or staff. The decision will also include an assessment on whether the offender's risk of harm may be more effectively managed in approved premises than in alternative accommodation in the community, having regard to the specific risk management measures which a approved premises provide.

Mr Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to review the guidelines that govern the placing of sexual offenders in approved premises in respect of the proximity of a given approved premises to a nursery, primary or secondary school. [60969]

Mr Blunt: There is no evidence to suggest that the proximity of approved premises to schools or other children's facilities increases the likelihood of further sexual offences being committed against the children in those schools and facilities. There are, therefore, no plans to extend the criteria by which child sex offenders are excluded from approved premises. The placement of individual offenders to particular approved premises will continue to be decided on the individual circumstances of each case.

Approved premises provide the most effective means to manage certain high risk of harm offenders in the community, particularly during the critical period of release from custody. All are equipped to provide a range of controls and offender management measures not available in other community facilities; these include curfew, 24 hour staffing, CCTV, monitoring of residents' movements and behaviour, room searching and drug testing. Many of the offenders supervised in approved premises are managed within the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. There are robust enforcement arrangements in place, including immediate recall to prison where residents are in breach of their licence conditions or the rules of residence.

Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what guidance his Department provides on the diversity issues to be considered when setting licence conditions; [60889]

(2) on how many occasions *(a)* curfews and *(b)* other licence conditions have been amended in order to aid compliance among offenders on licence in each of the last three years; [60938]

(3) on how many occasions breaches in licence conditions *(a)* have and *(b)* have not led to a recall to prison in each of the last three years. [60989]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(1) The Probation Instruction 07/2011 provides probation staff with guidance on what to include on a licence.

The Instruction can be located on:

www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/guidance/prison-probation-and-rehabilitation/psipso/pi_07-2011_licence_conditions_final.doc

The overriding aims of licence conditions are to protect the public, prevent re-offending and secure the successful re-integration of the offender into the community.

There are standard conditions to which any offender on licence is subject. Any additional conditions placed on an offender's licence must be necessary to manage the level of risk in the community and proportionate in that there is no less intrusive method of addressing that particular risk.

There is no specific guidance in respect of diversity issues, but offender managers and prison governors are expected to take into account all relevant issues, including any relevant diversity considerations. All prison and probation instructions are reviewed by the National Offender Management Service Race and Equality Action Group, prior to publication, which ensures that diversity issues are properly considered.

(2) Many additional licence conditions, including those that require an offender to comply with a curfew, are worded in such a way that they can be amended or adapted at the discretion of an offender manager. The reasons for amending a condition locally can vary, for example, gradually reducing a curfew in response to appropriate compliance as an offender approaches the end of the sentence, or adjusting requirements to address offending behaviour according to the availability and suitability of offending behaviour programmes.

Information on the number of occasions on which offender managers have varied or amended an offender's licence condition is not held centrally; to obtain such information would involve a manual exercise of looking at individual records and as such, would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition, offender managers may seek to have licence conditions varied by requesting that additional conditions are inserted or removed. Requests for seeking additional conditions or the removal of conditions are normally based on the fact that an offender's circumstances have changed since being released or new areas of risk have been identified and need to be appropriately managed.

The variation of licence conditions is undertaken either by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on behalf of the Secretary of State or, where the Parole Board is responsible for determining licence conditions, the request for licence variation is referred to the Parole Board.

NOMS does not hold centrally data on the number of requests it receives for licence variation. To provide this information would involve a manual exercise looking at individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

In January this year, the Parole Board introduced a report enabling it to extract data on the number of requests it receives to vary licence conditions. Between January and May it received 370 such requests. The Parole Board does not hold comprehensive data before this point.

(3) The number of offenders on licence and who have been recalled to prison for breaching their licence conditions for the period April 2007 until December 2010 is:

	Number
2007-08	13,252
2008-09	13,467

	Number
2009-10	15,004
2010 (April-December)	[1]11,705

[1] The data for the whole of 2010-11 will be published on 28 July 2011

This information was published in the Ministry of Justice Quarterly Publication on licence recalls and returns to custody:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/licence-recalls-and-returns-to-custody.htm

Information on the number of occasions offenders have breached their licence conditions and have not resulted in recall is not held centrally. To provide such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of times police forces have not been informed of the release of an offender from prison in each of the last three years. [60888]

Mr Blunt: There are no central records held for the number of times police forces have not been informed of the release of an offender from prison.

There are however a number of mechanisms through which police forces are informed of the release of offenders from prison.

Systems are in place to share release data of all prisoners with all police forces on a daily basis. Prisoner details remain on the list until such time as the prisoner is released.

Specific arrangements are in place for more serious and persistent offenders, which will include release data on:

1. Prisoners subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) levels 2 and 3; and
2. Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO).

Prisoners: Sexual Offences

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has recorded any incidents in which *(a)* offenders and *(b)* offenders convicted of sexual offences have had contact with children in prisons. [61198]

Mr Blunt: Information about contact with children by offenders in prison, including sexual offenders, is held locally at each prison and is not collated centrally.

However, offenders in prison with a charge or conviction of an offence against a child, or who are considered a risk to children, will not be granted permission for contact with any child by the prison governor or his representative unless it is assessed that they do not pose a risk to the child and it is also in the best interest of the child.

Prisoners: Thanet

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* offenders in prison who gave residential addresses in North and South Thanet and *(b)* ex-offenders resettled at addresses in North and South Thanet there were in the latest period for which figures are available. [60454]

Mr Blunt: Information on a prisoner's residence is provided by prisoners on reception into prison and recorded on a central IT system. Addresses include a prisoner's home address, an address to which they intend to return on discharge and next of kin

As at 27 May 2011 there were 186 prisoners in England and Wales who had a centrally recorded address in the North and South Thanet constituencies. This figure includes male and female prisoners, adults, young offenders and juveniles and those who are sentenced and on remand.

Information on ex-offenders resettled in North and South Thanet could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve contacting every probation trust who would then have to consult individual offender records.

Data on the prison population are drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Televisions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will increase the rental charge for in-cell televisions in prisons. [61192]

Mr Blunt: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to her on 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 691.

Public Order Offences

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 10 to 12, (ii) 13 to 15, (iii) 16 to 17, (iv) 18 to 24, (v) 25 to 30, (vi) 31 to 40 and (vii) 40 and over were (A) prosecuted, (B) given a fixed penalty and (C) convicted of an offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each police force area in each of the last five years for which information is available; [60648]

(2) what the maximum *(a)* fine and *(b)* fixed penalty was for an offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 in each year since enactment. [60649]

Mr Blunt: The following tables have been placed in the House Library:

Number of males and females by age group who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 by police force area, England and Wales, 2006 to 2010.

Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution for offences under Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 by gender, age group and police force area, England and Wales, 2006 to 2010.

Penalty notices for disorder issued to males, and females, by age group, for the offence of causing harassment, alarm or distress, in England and Wales 2006 to 2010.

The maximum fine amount for offences under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986(1) in England and Wales 1987 to 2010.

The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 allows a police officer to issue a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the fixed amount of £80 for the offence of 'Using words, conduct likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress' under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. PND's were made available to all 43 police forces in England and Wales from April 2004.

Court proceedings data for 2011 are planned for publication in spring 2012.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time between submission of an appeal against a decision on the award of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance and the date of the appeal hearing was in the latest period for which figures are available. [60840]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the average time taken from submission of an appeal to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) until the date of the first appeal hearing at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) for employment and support allowance and disability living allowance appeals.

The information covers April 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

	Average time in weeks from submission to DWP to receipt at HMCTS[1]	*Average time in weeks from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing*
Employment and support allowance	8.21	23.01
Disability living allowance	6.88	24.37

[1] The data regarding the time from when an appeal is submitted to the DWP until it is received by HMCTS is taken from HMCTS' database and relies on the date of submission provided by DWP. The tribunal does not measure the time from receipt at DWP to receipt at HMCTS and the averages have been calculated by subtracting the time from receipt at HMCTS to first hearing from the total average time.

Waiting times for a hearing result from an unexpectedly high levels of appeals. In response, HMCTS has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, published management information shows that 38% more SSCS appeals were cleared in April 2011 compared to April 2010 (and 65% when compared with April 2009). Further capacity increases are in hand.

Victims and Witnesses General Fund

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria were used to determine the outcome of applications to the Victims and Witnesses General Fund, 2011 to 2014. [60657]

Mr Blunt: Applications to the Victim and Witness General Fund were assessed against the following four criteria.

First, the applicant had to demonstrate that its proposal focused on delivering, or increasing the capacity to deliver, frontline services to the most serious, vulnerable and persistently targeted victims.

Second, the applicant had to demonstrate that it would provide a high quality service with positive outcomes for service users.

Third, the applicant's proposal had to have detailed, realistic and justifiable costings and mechanisms for monitoring performance.

Fourth, there had to be clear potential to build capacity and sustainability.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at which engagements he has discussed the classification of asbestos and related matters since his appointment. [60148]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has not discussed the classification of asbestos and related matters at any engagements since his appointment.

However, the Secretary of State has held meetings on health and safety issues during which the classification of asbestos has been discussed.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on *(a)* legislation relating to (i) the regulation of and (ii) the classification of white asbestos since his appointment. [60149]

Chris Grayling: Since May 2010, the Department for Work and Pensions has received representations from Asbestos Watchdog regarding the legislation relating to, and the classification of, white asbestos.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on what grounds he commissioned a report into the evidence on the present classification of asbestos; [60154]

(2) how much his Department spent on Sir John Beddington's review of the classification of asbestos. [60147]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions asked Sir John Beddington, as the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, for his view on whether there was any evidence that would justify a change to the international classification of asbestos following representations from Asbestos Watchdog and a number of parliamentary questions, in autumn 2010, regarding white asbestos and asbestos cement products.

No spending was undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to Sir John Beddington's work.

Atos Healthcare: Contracts

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value is of his Department's contract awarded to Atos Healthcare in respect of the carrying out of medical assessments for benefits. [60664]

Chris Grayling: The value of the contract is approximately £100 million per annum over 10 years, and is subject to demand for the services. The scope of the services includes medical assessment, medical advice, IT support infrastructure and maintenance of facilities.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many medical assessments for benefits were carried out by Atos Healthcare in 2010. [60665]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare carried out 707,832 medical assessments between January 2010 to December 2010. The following table breaks this down by benefit type:

Benefit type	*Number of assessments*[1]
Employment Support Allowance (ESA)	470,265
Incapacity Benefit (IB)	128,175
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	45,155
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)	57,865
Appeals	4,431
Other Business Units[2]	1,941
Total	707,832

[1] The above information was collated from Management Information provide by Atos Healthcare's Medical Services Information Team (MSIT).
[2] Other Business Units includes medical assessments includes those for Veterans Agency.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials at each grade his Department *(a)* employed in 2000, *(b)* employed in 2005, *(c)* employs and *(d)* plans to employ in each year of the comprehensive spending review period at its offices at (i) Norcross, (ii) Warbreck House and (iii) Peel Park. [59805]

Chris Grayling: The number of individual employees, in each grade, employed at Norcross, Peel Park, and Warbreck House are in the following tables.

The current figures are as at the end of March 2011 this being the date of the latest Public Sector Employment Statistics published by Office for National Statistics.

March 2002

Site	*Band A AA-*	*Band B AO*	*Band C EO*	*Band D HEO*	*Band E SEO*	*Band F G7*	*Band G G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Norcross	460	780	711	226	112	37	9	3	2,338
Peel Park	7	32	52	63	51	19	12	3	239
Warbreck House	656	1,265	559	43	11	2	2	1	2,539
Total	1,123	2,077	1,322	332	174	58	23	7	5,116

March 2005

Site	*Band A AA*	*Band B AO*	*Band C EO*	*Band D HEO*	*Band E SEO*	*Band F G7*	*Band G G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Norcross	261	682	655	303	144	57	19	6	2,127
Peel Park	7	43	81	86	58	27	18	4	324
Warbreck House	466	1,313	684	60	12	4	0	1	2,540
Total	734	2,038	1,420	449	214	88	37	11	4,991

March 2011

Site	*Band A AA*	*Band B AO*	*Band C EO*	*Band D HEO*	*Band E SEO*	*Band F G7*	*Band G G6*	*SCS*	*Total*
Norcross	31	260	429	352	196	99	43	11	1,423
Peel Park	3	61	197	174	108	90	41	10	684
Warbreck House	348	1,186	844	84	19	4	7	1	2,493
Total	382	1,507	1,470	610	323	193	91	22	4,600

Notes: 1. Figures are staff in post i.e. individuals. 2. DWP formed in 2001—earliest available figures for these offices is March 2002. 3. March 2011 total does not sum—two cases where grade information not recorded at time of extraction.

The spending review settlement will result in the Department's core budget being reduced by 26% by 2014-15, with corporate overheads reduced by 40%. These reductions will be from a 1 April 2011 baseline. Not all this reduction will necessarily be achieved through headcount reductions.

Where we do need to reduce jobs we will do this through normal turnover where possible. If people become surplus we will seek to redeploy them within DWP or the wider civil service.

Work force plans for these sites are not yet available. It is too early to say what the impact on these offices will be, until detailed business planning is completed and the Departmental Corporate Centre Transformation Project is complete later this financial year.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60185]

Chris Grayling: The DWP's Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Action Plan has been published and is available on 'Supplying DWP' pages of the DWP website.

The engagement of SMEs is covered in commercial documents, tools and training for staff.

One of these tools is the Sustainable Procurement Risk Assessment Methodology (SPRAM), used by commercial staff to identify social, economic and environmental risks and opportunities in procurements including opportunities for SMEs.

The DWP use the Contracts Finder portal to advertise new opportunities and where appropriate, flag those which may be suitable for SMEs. The DWP's Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) document has been revised and the mandatory core questions (developed by Cabinet Office) adopted. This ensures consistency

with other Government Departments and helps to streamline the pre qualification process for SMEs.

Commercial teams are encouraged to talk to first tier suppliers about how SMEs can potentially (where appropriate) play a part in their supply chains. The package of SME measures has been shared with DWP arm's length bodies and they have been encouraged to also implement the measures.

During the procurement for the Work programme, prime providers were actively encouraged to engage SMEs when setting up their supply chains. All Work programme contracts also contain a contract performance condition that requires prime providers to report (on an annual basis) the number of SMEs they currently engage in their supply chains. This will be monitored and discussed as part of contract performance reviews.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59723]

Chris Grayling: The Departmental Business Plan sets out the DWP's high level strategic objectives and how we intend to deliver them over the comprehensive spending review period. The plan is regularly refreshed and published here:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp-business-plan-may-2011.pdf

We also have a one-year business plan which provides more detail on the high level strategic objectives and is published here:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp-delivery-plan-2011-2012.pdf

Progress towards delivery is published on the Department's website through a monthly update on structural reform and, from July 2011, a Quarterly Data Summary.

In addition, the Government plan to introduce a universal credit which will fundamentally reform the delivery of much of the DWP's core services, The Department is working with colleagues across Whitehall, and with local government, to develop in detail how best to achieve this. This will include designing an operating model that will set the strategic framework to successfully deliver those core services.

Departmental Responsibilities

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the name is of each cross-departmental working group in which officials in his Department have participated *(a)* since May 2010 and *(b)* in the last three years; [45429]

(2) what the name is of each working group his Department has established *(a)* since May 2010 and *(b)* in the last three years. [45430]

Chris Grayling: The requested information on the name of each working group and each cross-departmental working group is not held centrally as they can be set up by either the Minister or officials. The scope of these working groups and the length of time they are in place can also vary significantly depending on the terms of reference.

Departmental Telephone Services

John Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average cost to benefit claimants of using 0845 numbers to contact his Department and its agencies in the latest period for which figures are available. [59138]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) uses both 0800 and 0845 telephone numbers. DWP uses 0845 telephone numbers for calls that are typically short, for example when making an inquiry about benefits.

The Department is undertaking an internal review as to its use of 0845 numbers.

The Department provides "Customer Access Phones" (CAP) in a large number of our Jobcentre Plus offices where customers can make or inquire about benefit claims and they do not have to pay when using these facilities. The Department also encourages its customers to use online facilities as an alternative to calling its 0800 and 0845 services. Where a customer calling our 0800 or 0845 services asks us, or raises concerns over the cost of the call, we will offer to call them back.

It is difficult to gauge how much the average cost to access our 0845 services will be, as some customers may not pay anything to access our services throughout their claim. There is no way of identifying which of our customers pay to use our services and customers will be charged at different rates, depending on their landline or mobile operator.

At appendix 1 is the average speed of answer and average call duration figures, which will show how long customers were on the telephone. The costs shown are basic BT call prices, but a full list of telephone provider call charges have also been provided as follows:

Appendix 1: Jobcentre Plus

	Average speed of answer	*Average call duration*	*Total call time*	*Cost at 4p per min plus set up cost of 3p (£)*
JSA Inquires	00:02:15	00:03:34	05:49	0.26
IS Inquires	00:01:36	00:03:05	04:41	0.22
IB Inquires	00:00:48	00:02:59	03:47	0.18
JSA, IS and IB Welsh	00:00:02	00:03:02	03:04	0.15
ESA Inquiries	00:02:42	00:04:00	06:42	0.30
IB/IS Reassessment	00:00:54	00:04:24	05:18	0.24
ESA Inquiries and IB/IS Reassessment Welsh	00:00:02	00:03:13	03:15	0.16
Inquire	00:01:17	00:04:25	05:42	0.26
Social Fund	00:01:45	00:02:33	04:18	0.20

In addition to these calls to Jobcentre Plus, calls to a customer's local jobcentre are handled via our outsourced provider, Balfour Beatty Workplace, using 0845 numbers. Limitations with the telephony system used mean that they are unable to provide the average cost to customers of making these calls.

Pensions Disability and Carers Service

	Average speed of answer	*Average call duration*	*Total call time*	*Cost at 4p per min plus set up cost of 3p (£)*
International Pension Centre	00:00:46	00:05:03	05:49	0.26

Pensions Disability and Carers Service

	Average speed of answer	*Average call duration*	*Total call time*	*Cost at 4p per min plus set up cost of 3p (£)*
Future Pension Centre	00:00:09	00:04:56	05:05	0.23
Pension Tracing Service	00:00:05	00:03:01	03:06	0.15
General Inquiry Line	00:00:45	00:05:32	06:17	0.28
National Pension Centre (Pensions Direct)	00:00:36	00:04:00	04:36	0.21

Note:
Call duration times for the Carers Allowance Unit Contact Centre and Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance Helpline are not available because these units do not record this information. We can, however, provide the Average Call Handling Time.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Operational Management Information System (OPMIS)

The full list of telephone provider call charges has been placed in the Library.

Employment Schemes: Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department expects to spend on the Work programme in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [59919]

Chris Grayling: Work programme spend will depend on performance as payments to providers are primarily for results. We expect total spend of between £3 billion and £5 billion over the life of contracts.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60703]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is currently responsible for the transposition of the following directives:

2010/41/EU (dated 7 July 2010). This directive deals with the application of. the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self employed capacity and repeals council directive 86/613/EEC.

2009/161/EU (dated 17 December 2009). This health and safety directive establishes a third list of indicative occupational exposure limit values for the protection of workers from chemical risks.

2010/32/EU (dated 10 May 2010). This health and safety directive implements the framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU (the social partners in the sector).

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the likely take-up of benefits by migrant workers from EU Accession states after the cessation of the transitional arrangements; [60049]

(2) what representations he has received on extension of the transitional arrangements for payment of benefits to migrant workers from EU Accession states. [60050]

Chris Grayling: No assessment has been made on the likely take-up of benefits from migrant workers from the current EU accession states after the cessation of the transitional arrangements.

The lead responsibility for the transitional arrangements for migrants from the current EU accession states lies with the Home Office. I am aware that representations and correspondence on this issue have been received by the Home Office.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of overpayment of benefits to EU migrant workers in the UK; and whether he has put in place any arrangements to recover such overpayments. [60051]

Chris Grayling: Data to enable an estimation of the level of overpayment of benefits to EU migrant workers in the UK are not available.

Recovery of a benefit overpayment from an EU migrant who resides in the UK would follow the normal departmental debt recovery processes. Where an EU migrant moves to another country within the EU, recovery can be made by that country under EU legislation. This legislation provides for one member state to recover overpayments on behalf of another member state either from arrears of benefit, by deduction from ongoing payments of benefit or by instalments if benefit is not in payment. The legislation also allows for enforcement action to be taken through the courts of the country in which the person is now residing where that action is appropriate.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to publish on its website information on the cost to the public purse of benefits claimed by nationals of other EU member states working in the UK. [60054]

Chris Grayling: The information referred to is not available. The UK's benefit and tax credit payment systems do not record the nationality of people receiving such benefits. I have therefore commissioned my officials to look at alternative ways of making this information available.

EU nationals who have worked and paid sufficient national insurance contributions, and meet the other conditions of entitlement, may be entitled to contributory benefits such as jobseeker's allowance.

Those who have not paid sufficient contributions may claim income-related benefits[1] providing they satisfy the habitual residence test.

[1] Income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment support allowance, pension credit, housing benefit, and council tax benefit

Habitual Residence

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to bring forward proposals on the definition of habitual residence. [60053]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to bring forward such proposals.

To be eligible for an income-related benefit such as income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance, pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit, a claimant must have a right to reside and be habitually resident in the common travel area[1]. This is known as the habitual residence test. A person who fails either or both parts of the test is treated as a person from abroad and does not have access to such benefits.

The term 'habitual residence' is not defined in social security legislation. This means that each case is considered on its own merits, in the light of the person's individual circumstances. In deciding whether a person is actually habitually resident, decision-makers, who decide entitlement to benefit, consider a wide variety of factors. These include reasons for coming to the United Kingdom, the length of their stay, future intentions, previous links with the country and, in the case of people returning to the United Kingdom, the reasons for their absence.

[1] The United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland

Health and Safety

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review and respond to the recommendations of the British Chamber of Commerce report entitled 'Health and Safety: a risky business', published in May 2011. [60042]

Chris Grayling: There are no plans to respond to the British Chamber of Commerce report 'Health and Safety: a risky business' but we will consider the report's recommendations in taking forward the reforms of the health and safety system in Great Britain announced in 'Good health and safety, good for everyone' on 21 March 2011.

Housing Benefit: Offenders

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of his proposed housing benefit changes on the resettlement of ex-offenders; and whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Justice on this issue. [59941]

Steve Webb: We published an impact assessment on 30 November 2010 that considered the effect of the changes to local housing allowance rates. The assessment is available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-impact-nov10.pdf

This includes an assessment of the justice impacts of these measures, including offender management impacts, which was undertaken following discussions with the Ministry of Justice.

We have commissioned a consortium of leading research organisations to evaluate the effects of recent local housing allowance changes. They are undertaking an independent review which will run for two years. The research will include a longitudinal survey and in-depth interviews with landlords and tenants and work with advisers and local authority officers over the period of the review in different types of housing markets.

The Social Security Advisory Committee is currently consulting on the change to the shared accommodation rate and we shall carefully consider their report and any recommendations they make. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Ministry of Justice have had discussions on this change.

We have tripled the funding for discretionary housing payments to provide a safety net, and to allow local authorities to target extra help where it is most needed.

Incapacity Benefits

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Skipton and Ripon constituency have been in receipt of incapacity benefits for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months, *(c)* 18 months, *(d)* two years, *(e)* three years and *(f)* five years. [60221]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in Skipton and Ripon parliamentary constituency by duration: November 2010

	IB/SDA	*ESA*
Total	1,740	490
Up to 6 months	—	210
6 to 12 months	10	130
12 months to 18 months	20	80
18 months to 2 years	10	60
2 to 3 years	170	10
3 to 5 years	260	—
Over 5 years	1,280	—

'—' Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance from October 2008.
4. Data includes claimants receiving credits only.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Industrial Health and Safety

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the long-term and short-term physical and psychological effects on workers of exposure to workplace temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius. [60667]

Chris Grayling: In 2009 The Health and Safety Executive commissioned an independent review into workplace temperatures, which drew on the wide range of non-Government research available. Following this review HSE conducted a survey about temperatures in workplaces, to which 2933 completed responses were submitted. Evaluation of this and other data provided little evidence of significant numbers of illnesses, long or short term, physical or psychological, caused or exacerbated by exposure to high temperatures.

Industrial Health and Safety: Biofuels

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what health and safety guidance is available for domestic producers of biodiesel. [60379]

Chris Grayling: The HSE issued a Health and Safety warning regarding the domestic production of biodiesel in 2009. This described the main hazards and advised it should only be carried out in controlled conditions by people with the proper training and experience. The information is available on the HSE website:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/biodiesel.htm

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office: Closure

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department of the closure of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office within Hartlepool Jobcentre Plus; [61326]

(2) how many staff will be affected by the closure of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office within Hartlepool Jobcentre Plus; how many such staff live in Hartlepool constituency; and in what other locations such staff will be required to work. [61327]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking: what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department of the closure of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) Office within Hartlepool Jobcentre Plus; and how many staff will be affected by the closure, how many live within Hartlepool constituency and what other locations such staff will be required to work in. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

It is anticipated that the decision to close 22 Benefit and Contact Centres will save £14 million by 2015. It is not always possible to be specific about the savings that will be realised through the closure of individual sites. Hartlepool IIDB centre is a prime example as it is co-located with a Jobcentre that is not set to close. Under such circumstances Jobcentre Plus will negotiate with estate provider Telereal Trillium to achieve savings by handing back whole floors of a building or it will explore the inward co-location potential.

There are currently 55 staff working in the Hartlepool Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office. The information requested on staff addresses by constituency is not collated centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All of the staff in the Hartlepool Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office will receive an offer of redeployment within Jobcentre Plus—either locally or further afield. There may also be additional opportunities for redeployment into other Civil Service posts, both within and outside our own Department.

Having examined the redeployment potential, we have identified that Stockton Benefit Centre, Middlesbrough Contact Centre and Sunderland Benefit Centre all offer some scope. However, the immediate priority of Jobcentre Plus is to understand the individual circumstances of the members of staff affected. Each member of staff will have an individual consultation meeting with their own manager to discuss the closure, their personal circumstances and preferences, and the options that are available to them.

It is worth emphasising that Hartlepool Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office will close in 2012/2013 (the other closures that we announced on 13th May 2011 are set to close in the next 12 months). This grants us extra time to plan and arrange suitable redeployments for the staff at Hartlepool.

Mortgages

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Barnsley Central constituency who *(a)* have been affected by his Department's changes to entitlement to mortgage interest payments and *(b)* will be affected in the 12 months following the change. [60420]

Chris Grayling: The standard interest rate which is used to calculate support for mortgage interest was changed to 3.63% from 1 October 2010. This change affects the entire support for mortgage interest caseload.

(a) Number of JSA claimants receiving mortgage interest at November 2010

The number of JSA claimants receiving mortgage interest is based on 5% sample data; figures less than 500 are subject to a high degree of sample variation and should be used only as a guide. In Barnsley Central the number is "nil or negligible"—as sample data are rounded to the nearest 100 this means that the derived figure is "less than 50" and so subject to large sample variation.

(b) The information is not available

DWP only forecasts claimant numbers for Great Britain, and not at devolved Administration or regional level.

Pensions: Females

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on women's pensions; and if he will make a statement. [59544]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 13 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 487.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60200]

Chris Grayling: The Department has not routinely recorded information about the proportion of contracts issued by the Department and associated agencies that were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). I am not therefore able to provide you with the information in the format you have requested.

However we do record details on the number of SMEs and the level of spend, which is illustrated in the following table:

DWP use of SMEs	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Number of SME suppliers to DWP	5,039	4,825
All suppliers to DWP	31,685	23,047
SME suppliers as % of all suppliers	16	21

DWP use of SMEs	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
DWP direct expenditure with SMEs (£ million)	525	622
DWP indirect expenditure with SMEs (£ million)	94	81
Total DWP spend going to SMEs (£ million)	619	703
SME spend as % of all DWP third party spend	13.48	15.19

Social Security Benefits: Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on attendance at reassessments by claimants in receipt of employer's support allowance and disability living allowance due to a degenerative illness. [60662]

Chris Grayling: Everyone who claims employment and support allowance (ESA) will undergo periodic work capability assessments (WCA) to ascertain whether they still meet the conditions for the benefit. This is because entitlement to ESA is based on an individual's functional ability rather than the condition itself. Even individuals with lifetime impairments may be able to adapt to those conditions and take up some work. So it is important we can provide them with the right support to get back to work when it is appropriate.

Recipients of disability living allowance in receipt of a fixed term award are invited to reclaim the benefit towards the end of their existing entitlement period. The assessment of their new claim would be made on the basis of the evidence they provide in the claim form and any additional evidence they provide or the Department requires. This additional evidence can include an examination of the individual by a health care professional where required.

Universal Credit

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for his assessment that the costs of automating universal credit applications will be lower than processing them face-to-face. [59541]

Chris Grayling: The Department's current approach to processing benefit applications is for a member of staff to enter relevant details into our system during a phone call with the claimant. The advantages of allowing a customer to directly enter their details which are then processed automatically far outweigh the costs of maintaining such a system.

Information from the JSA Online project is that the cost to the Department of an online JSA claim is almost three time cheaper when compared with a claim taken over the telephone.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements he plans to put in place in the case of individuals needing to provide information about personal circumstances which cannot be provided through the automated system for delivering universal credit. [60021]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will make use of claimant information already held where possible. Otherwise we will ask the claimant to provide information about their circumstances, predominantly by online self service.

Welfare to Work

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which welfare-to-work organisations operating in Tottenham constituency have a contract with his Department. [60570]

Chris Grayling: The welfare-to-work organisations operating in the Tottenham constituency and delivering the West London Work programme contract on behalf of the Department are Ingeus UK Ltd, Maximus Employment UK Ltd and Reed in Partnership.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of UK official development assistance to Afghanistan was delivered through the armed forces in the latest period for which figures are available. [60737]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: No UK official development assistance is channelled through our armed forces in Afghanistan.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what quick impact projects his Department funds in Afghanistan. [60740]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development does not fund any quick impact projects in Afghanistan.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the security situation for humanitarian agencies operating in Afghanistan. [60742]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations (UN) and the Afghanistan Non-Governmental Organisation Safety Office (ANSO) make assessments of the security situation for humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan. The UK supports ANSO through our contributions to the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO).

The UN currently categorises more than 40% of the country as high-risk for international humanitarian organisations due to a steady increase in security incidents since early 2008. Humanitarian access is particularly limited in the southern region of Afghanistan due to the escalation in insurgency and counter-insurgency activities.

According to ANSO's assessment for 2010 there was a 27% fall in the total volume of attacks on NGO staff compared to 2009. This is partly as a result of humanitarian

agencies reducing their presence in some of the most violent-prone areas of the country and adapting the way they work to minimise risk.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case; [60330]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60484]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), has not introduced any regulations since 1 March 2011 and is not responsible for any regulations that are currently in force.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for which European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60696]

Mr O'Brien: There have not been any EU directives which have come into force either before or after 1 April 2010 for which the Department for International Development is responsible.

Kenya: Food

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take in relation to the food situation in Kenya. [60741]

Mr O'Brien: Since October my Department has provided £5.3 million of support through United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisations to meet and mitigate some of the worst effects of the drought—including the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition in over 40,000 children under five years and the provision of safe water and sanitation to over 328,000 people and 330,000 livestock.

DFID's Hunger Safety Net Programme also provides more than 60,000 of the most vulnerable households with regular cash payments.

Following the release of new assessment data last week, DFID is rapidly scaling up its nutrition and food security programmes in the most affected districts. We are also assessing the recent Government of Kenya budget to see what impact it will have on the situation.

Overseas Aid

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with its G20 counterparts on increasing transparency in aid spending. [60567]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Most G20 members do not provide aid on traditional lines, but we are keen to encourage all development partners to be more transparent in their operations. Those members of the G20 who are also part of the G8 agreed at the Deauville summit to improve the transparency of aid information. In particular the G8 agreed to make further efforts on publishing information on allocations, expenditure and results and undertook to lead by example through increasing transparency in advance of the Fourth High Level Forum in Korea in November 2011.

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support emerging economies' compliance with the International Aid Transparency Initiative. [60568]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We encourage all donors to make their aid more transparent. The International Aid Transparency Initiative is a voluntary coalition of 19 major aid providers and 20 developing countries aiming to implement greater transparency. We will continue to encourage broader membership, including among emerging economies. We will press for aid transparency to be a key element of agreements at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan where traditional and non-traditional donors will come together to discuss how to deliver better results for poor people from our collective aid efforts.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps his Department plans to take to ensure value for money in aid given to fragile contexts; [60739]

(2) by what means he plans to assess value for money in aid given to fragile states. [60738]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department has completed three root and branch reviews of the UK aid programme, including in fragile contexts. The results of these reviews have been used to ensure all UK aid expenditure represents value for money for the UK taxpayer while bringing real benefits to the world's poorest people. All new DFID programmes, including those in fragile contexts, are now developed using a business case model, which puts value for money, results, and evidence about what works at the heart of the planning and evaluation processes.

To ensure UK aid continues to offer good value for money all programmes are rigorously monitored to ensure the expected results are achieved cost-effectively. We are currently strengthening the existing processes in place for review of our programmes annually during implementation and at completion, which will place greater emphasis on results and value for money. The new approach will be introduced early in 2012 for all projects currently subject to annual review and for all projects newly-approved from January 2011.

As part of the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, all business cases and reviews are published on DFID's website. This way we are ensuring UK aid expenditure is open to public scrutiny. In addition, I have set up an independent body, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI), to evaluate the impact of UK aid. ICAI are able to review any part of the UK aid programme including aid spent in fragile contexts.

Somalia: Food

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to respond to the food security situation in Somalia prior to the publication of the Bilateral Aid Review. [60735]

Mr O'Brien: My Department is already supporting ongoing activities in Somalia that are reaching more than 1.3 million vulnerable people this year with emergency relief assistance—including the treatment of starving children, access to health care, essential vaccinations, water, sanitation, food assistance, shelter and activities to protect the livelihoods of pastoralists and farmers.

Following the Bilateral Aid Review, the Department for International Development (DFID) has provisionally allocated funds to support humanitarian assistance efforts in Somalia over the next four years, subject to evidence that we are achieving results. We estimate that this assistance will reach at least 500,000 a year. My officials are currently identifying priority activities and partners who are best placed to respond given the deteriorating situation.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to respond to the food security situation in the Horn of Africa. [60736]

Mr O'Brien: My Department is already supporting ongoing humanitarian programmes in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia and stands ready to do more, as recent assessments show the food security situation across the Horn of Africa is deteriorating.

In Somalia these programmes are reaching more than 1.3 million vulnerable people this year with emergency relief assistance. In Ethiopia, my Department is supporting agencies to provide safe water and sanitation for over 900,000 beneficiaries, nutrition support to 2.5 million people, livelihoods support for over 3 million, and farming tools and household items to 300,000. In Kenya, my Department is supporting agencies to provide treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition; provision of safe water or sanitation and livestock inputs. Following the release of the new assessment data last week, DFID is scaling up its nutrition and food security programmes in the most affected districts.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs of each breed were used for experimental purposes in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [60453]

Lynne Featherstone: Information on the numbers and species of animals used as part of scientific procedures, is reported annually in the publications 'Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain' (Home Office, Table 1a) and 'Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Northern Ireland' (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Table 1a).

There were a total of 4,108 beagles, 40 other dogs (including cross-bred dogs) and no greyhounds, used in procedures started in 2009 in the UK.

Figures for 2010 for Great Britain will be published on 13 July 2011.

Copies of the latest annual publications are available via the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science and DHSSPS websites at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/science/research-testing-using-animals/

and

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/healthprotection-animalscience

Antisocial Behaviour

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential use of mediation to resolve *(a)* antisocial behaviour and *(b)* disputes between neighbours. [60476]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* We have not made a specific assessment of the use of mediation to resolve antisocial behaviour or disputes between neighbours. However the recent Home Office consultation paper, "More Effective Responses to Antisocial Behaviour", recognises that informal measures, including mediation, are an important part of the professionals toolkit offering a proportionate response to first-time or low-level incidents.

Burglary: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of trends in the conviction rate for burglary in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London. [60460]

Mr Blunt: Defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts, and the conviction ratio for burglary offences in London and England and Wales, 2006-10, can be found in the following table.

Prosecution and conviction data for Bexley are not held centrally by the Ministry of Justice. It is not known whether an assessment has been made of the trends in the conviction rate for burglary in Bexley and Greater London.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts, and the conviction ratio for burglary offences in London and England and Wales, 2006-10

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
London[1]					
Proceeded against	4,522	4,402	4,303	4,575	4,592
Found guilty	3,109	3,150	3,184	3,199	3,244
Conviction ratio (%)	69	72	74	70	71

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts, and the conviction ratio for burglary offences in London and England and Wales, 2006-10

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
England and Wales					
Proceeded against	30,637	31,065	30,850	30,871	31,811
Found guilty	22,955	23,821	23,882	22,983	23,909
Conviction ratio (%)	75	77	77	74	75

[1] London includes City of London and Metropolitan police.

Notes:

1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* officials in her Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of the implementation of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within her Department's responsibilities. [60710]

Damian Green: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is a cross-Government initiative.

All departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

Departments are engaging with their stakeholders on issues relating to the employment law review in accordance with their standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Crime: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* voluntary and *(b)* community organisations received grant funding from her Department to tackle (A) knife crime, (B) gun crime, (C) sexual violence, (D) human trafficking and (E) domestic violence in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [60565]

Damian Green: In 2010-11 the Home Office made available funding to 144 voluntary and community organisations working to prevent young people's involvement in knife and gun crime through the Community Fund. A list of the successful applicants to the fund can be found at:

http://grantsadmin.co.uk/homeoffice_communityfund/documents/FinalSuccessfulApplicantsListV2080709.doc

The Home Office also provided funding to the Prince's Trust, which gave out 67 awards through the Ben Kinsella Fund for the 2010-11 financial year.

In 2011-12 the Home Office will be making available £2 million to voluntary and community organisations working to prevent young people's involvement in knife and gun crime though the communities against guns, gangs and knives fund (CAGGK). Over 600 applications were submitted for funding.

Applications are currently being assessed and applicants will be informed of the outcome shortly.

In addition, to the funding above for specific work to prevent gun and knife crime among young people, the Home Office also provided funding of over £2.8 million in 2010-11 to 53 voluntary and community organisations to deliver Positive Futures, a community-based prevention programme targeting vulnerable 10 to 19-year-olds at risk of becoming involved in crime and substance misuse. In 2011-12, the Home Office is continuing to fund these 53 organisations at the same level.

In 2010-11 the Home Office provided grant funding across 44 voluntary and community organisations towards the costs of employing 44 independent sexual violence advisers (ISVAs). In 2011-12 the Home Office is providing grant funding of £1.18 million spread across 59 voluntary and community organisations towards the costs of employing 59 ISVAs. Grants to the national bodies Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and Survivors Trust are also being made. These grants are paid towards the core funding costs of their national head offices.

A list of the organisations supported for ISVA posts can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/isva-funding

In 2010-11 the Home Office paid £950,000 to the Ministry of Justice as a contribution to the Poppy Project to fund care for trafficking victims of sexual exploitation, and £142,045 to Migrant Helpline to fund care for victims of Forced Labour Trafficking.

In 2011-12 the Home Office will be contributing £1 million to the Ministry of Justice to fund care for human trafficking victims through the new prime contractor model to be delivered by the Salvation Army from 1 July 2011. £50,000 of this will be paid to Migrant Helpline to cover the cost of victim care provided by them during the transition phase between 1 April 2011 and 30 June 2011.

In 2010-11 the Home Office provided grant funding to voluntary and community organisations which work at a national level to support the victims of domestic violence to: Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), Women's Aid, Refuge, Broken Rainbow, Eaves Housing and Respect.

In 2011-12 the Home Office has provided grant funding: to Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), Women's Aid, Refuge, Broken Rainbow, Eaves Housing and Respect.

The Home Office has also provided funding to 13 voluntary and community organisations in 2010-11 and to 92 organisations in 2011-12. A list of those organisations who received funding in 2011-12 for IDVAs can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/idva/

This will also cover local authorities.

Defence Equipment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure her Department will incur in relation to the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition between 13 and 16 September 2011; and whether Ministers from her Department plan to attend the event. [60763]

James Brokenshire: The only costs incurred by the Home Office in relation to the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition will be the possible costs of travel and subsistence incurred by visiting staff. No ministerial commitments have been made to this event at the present time.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to promote visual data security in her Department; and what training her Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60911]

Damian Green: In accordance with the best practice standards set out in the Hannigan Report and compliance with central Government guidance, the Home Office operates a range of information security training requirements for all staff to prevent any unauthorised third party access to its IT equipment. Training requirements include mandatory e-learning which all staff including contractors must undertake and pass on an annual basis.

In addition, guidance on safeguarding information is published on the Home Office Intranet and is actively promoted to all staff by an ongoing communications campaign using posters, internal news items and presentations designed to ensure that all staff are aware of information safeguarding standards and where to seek advice.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what regulations her Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case; [60331]

(2) what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by her Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate she has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60490]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Title	*Made (introduced) date*	*Coming into force date*	*Revoked date*	*Estimated savings to those affected*	*Estimated costs to those affected*
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Jersey) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/717	10 March 2011	6 April 2011	—	—	An increase of £8 in the fee for an enhanced criminal records certificate
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Guernsey) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/718	10 March 2011	6 April 2011	—	—	An increase of £8 in the fee for an enhanced criminal records certificate
The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records)(Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/719	10 March 2011	6 April 2011	—	—	An increase of £8 in the fee for an enhanced criminal records certificate
The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/790	14 March 2011	6 April 2011	—	—	—
The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 SI 2010/2226	7 September 2010	1 October 2010	6 April 2011	—	—
The Asylum Support(Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/907	23 March 2011	18 April 2011	—	—	A 3.1% increase in level of support provided to asylum seekers
The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2010 SI 2010/784	15 March 2010	12 April 2010	18 April 2011	A 3.1% increase in level of support provided to asylum seekers	—

Title	Made (introduced) date	Coming into force date	Revoked date	Estimated savings to those affected	Estimated costs to those affected
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1055	1 April 2011	6 April 2011	—	—	[2]—
The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 SI 2010/2807	21 November 2010	22 November 2010	6 April 2011	[1]—	—
The Civil Partnership (Registration Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1171	26 April 2011	9 May 2011	—	—	No costs estimated to occur to those affected
The Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1172	26 April 2011	9 May 2011	—	—	No costs estimated to occur to those affected
The Crime and Disorder(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1230	9 May 2011	1 June 2011	—	—	No costs estimated to occur to those affected
The Immigration(European Economic Area) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1247	9 May 2011	2 June 2011	—	—	No costs estimated to occur to those affected
The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Monetary Penalty Notices and Consents for Interceptions) Regulations 2011 SI 2011/1340	26 May 2011	16 June 2011	—	—	No costs estimated to occur to those affected

[1] The details of the changes to the fees are too complex and numerous to reproduce but they are set at or below the administrative cost of an immigration and nationality application, process or service in line with the Government's charging model. The full details are set out in the Explanatory Memorandum at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/790/memorandum/contents

[2] The details of the changes to the fees are too complex and numerous to reproduce but they are set above the administrative cost of an immigration and nationality application, process or service in line with the Government's charging model. The full details are set out in the Explanatory Memorandum at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1055/memorandum/contents

Deportation: Tamils

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue a direction to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) not to release to the Sri Lankan government documents held by the UKBA on those with Tamil ethnicity who face deportation to Sri Lanka. [60954]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The UK Border Agency has a strict policy relating to the submission of information to third party authorities for the purposes of obtaining an emergency travel document. The policy specifically prohibits the submission of any documentation that refers to a subject's status in the UK or any evidence that could potentially pose a risk to an individual.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the number of Commonwealth citizens with Tamil ethnicity who were deported to Sri Lanka by the UK Border Agency and have subsequently disappeared in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [60955]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* There is no evidence that those previously removed to Sri Lanka have been mistreated by the Sri Lankan authorities. The UK Border Agency does not routinely monitor the treatment of individual failed asylum seekers who return to their home country. We believe that the best way to avoid ill-treatment is to make sure that we do not return those who are at risk. We do this by ensuring that trained caseworkers make the right decisions based on the circumstances of each individual case, and by providing a right of appeal to the independent courts.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the deportation by the UK Border Agency of those with Tamil ethnicity to Sri Lanka. [60956]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The UK Border Agency carefully considers all asylum claims and human rights claims including those from Tamils on their individual merits in accordance with UK international obligations against the background of the latest available country information.

We do not accept that all Tamil asylum seekers are in need of international protection. This view has been endorsed by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in the case of NA v. UK 2008. An Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Country Guidance case in October 2009 agreed with the European Court and affirmed that in some cases there is a reduced the risk to Tamils than previous case law had identified.

If an applicant demonstrates a need for international protection, asylum is granted. If their application is refused, they have a right of appeal to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Unified Tribunal framework. In this way we ensure that we provide protection to those asylum seekers who need it.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the conclusions of the UN Panel of Experts report on Sri Lanka, whether she has *(a)* assessed the safety and *(b)* conducted a risk assessment on the deportation by the UK Border Agency of those with Tamil ethnicity to Sri Lanka on 16 June 2011. [60957]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The UK welcomed the UN Panel of Experts report to the UN Secretary-General on the issue of accountability for alleged violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the military conflict in Sri Lanka. We have consistently called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation to address these allegations and expect to see progress by the end of the year.

The protection needs of individual asylum seekers are assessed on an individual basis and are based on the risk they would face on return to their country of origin now, not on risks they may have faced in the past.

Drugs: Misuse

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the misuse of ketamine. [60357]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to tackling the misuse of all illicit drugs including ketamine.

The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 define ketamine as a schedule 4 controlled drug. Companies and individuals wishing to lawfully possess, supply or produce controlled drugs must hold a Home Office domestic controlled drug licence for the appropriate schedule and activity. Prospective licensees are subject to a formal application process within which their competence to hold a licence is assessed; this will include the satisfactory completion of a Criminal Records Bureaux (CRB) check and, in many cases, include a risk-assessed compliance visit.

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) carried out a formal study of ketamine in 2003 and produced a comprehensive report following which ketamine became, from 1 January 2006, a class C controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Our approach to tackling illicit drugs is outlined in the Drug Strategy 2010. It sets out the measures we will take to prevent people using drugs, including ketamine, in the first place and gives our continued support for FRANK, the drugs information and advice service. Where people do become dependent, it also sets out our commitment to take action to support them to recover and make a full and confident contribution to society.

Entry Clearances

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of visitors to the UK who will use the new Irish pilot visa waiver scheme in the next 12 months. [60813]

Damian Green *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* We welcome the visa waiver programme announced by Irish Minister Alan Shatter and hope that it will lead to an increase in tourism and trade between our two countries. We are unable to estimate how many people from the countries included in the programme will wish to travel to Ireland from the UK during the trial period.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the relationship between the *(a)* complexity of the short-term business visa system and *(b)* time taken by the visa application process and the level of foreign direct investment in the UK. [61040]

Damian Green: We recognise the importance to the UK economy of encouraging business people from overseas to visit the UK and are committed to running a visa service that fully supports business growth and investment while protecting our border. In 2010, 93% of business visit visa applications were successful and they were generally processed within three to five days, faster than applications for other categories of visa. We offer a range of premium visa services for business visitors in priority growth markets, including Russia, India, China and the Gulf states, and are piloting fast track processing and mobile biometric services for business people in selected countries. Guidance on applying for business and tourist visit visas is now available in six key languages and long-term, multiple entry business visit visas, with a validity of up to 10 years, are also available for regular travellers.

Entry Clearances: Domestic Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for a change of visa category her Department has received from migrant domestic workers who came to the UK with foreign diplomats and who have cited mistreatment as the reason for the change in the last three years. [60828]

Damian Green: We have taken "changed visa category" to mean submitting an in-country application for leave in another category.

The information requested in relation to migrant domestic workers in diplomatic households submitting in-country applications for leave on the grounds of mistreatment is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency, and the information required would involve the investigation of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable her Department has set for its review of visa protections for migrant domestic workers. [60830]

Damian Green: The Government published a consultation on employment-related settlement, Tier 5 of the points based system and overseas domestic workers, on 9 June 2011. That consultation includes proposals for reforming the overseas domestic worker routes, acknowledging that an important consideration is that there can be serious problems associated with the treatment of people working for others in a domestic capacity.

The consultation is open for comment until 9 September and is available on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the safety of Syria as a place for visa applicants in Iraq to collect their visas. [60862][1]

Damian Green: We are closely monitoring the security situation in Syria. Our visa application centre remains open for business and applicants are able to make their applications in the normal way. Applicants who live in Iraq can choose to visit Syria, Lebanon or Jordan to make their applications.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral statement of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 54-5WS, on changes to immigration rules, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that as a consequence of part 8 (accountancy courses) the ACCA is independent of and not a sponsor for institutions and organisations providing ACCA-accredited qualifications. [61033]

Damian Green: The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is not an education provider; it is an awarding organisation and is therefore not eligible for a tier 4 sponsor licence. Education providers that do become licensed sponsors may only offer ACCA courses to international students under tier 4 if they are gold or platinum approved learning partners by ACCA.

European Arrest Warrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the average cost to the public purse of processes arising from a European arrest warrant. [60504]

Damian Green: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 1 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 548W. An exercise is currently under way to estimate the average cost of executing an EAW and an extradition request in England and Wales, and the results will be available in due course.

Extremism

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any financial transactions have taken place between foreign governments or police forces and *(a)* the National Public Order Intelligence Unit, *(b)* the National Domestic Extremism Team, *(c)* the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit, *(d)* the National Coordinator for Domestic Extremism and *(e)* police units responsible for actions relating to domestic extremism. [57422]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which foreign *(a)* governments and *(b)* police forces have had working relations with (i) the National Public Order Intelligence Unit, (ii) the National Domestic Extremism Team, (iii) the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit, (iv) the National Coordinator for Domestic Extremism and (v) police units responsible for actions relating to domestic extremism. [57424]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold this information. The national police units will work with foreign agencies to tackle criminality in line with the relevant legal framework.

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her Department has had with the governments of countries where undercover police officers have been deployed from domestic extremism units since October 2010. [57437]

James Brokenshire: Deployment of undercover officers is an operational matter for chief officers who work within the relevant legal framework.

Human Trafficking

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 708W, on human trafficking, what the criteria are that must be met by recognised victims of trafficking in order that they are not expected to return to their own country. [60849]

Damian Green: All victims of trafficking are offered a minimum 45-day recovery and reflection period. Some victims are UK nationals and some are EU citizens not subject to immigration control. Those who are subject to control may be eligible for a residence permit if their personal circumstances warrant them remaining in the UK or if they are co-operating with the authorities in a criminal investigation or proceedings. Victims of trafficking may also qualify to remain in the UK for a reason other than their victim status under the Immigration Rules.

Human Trafficking: Domestic Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of trafficking of migrant domestic workers by foreign diplomats are being investigated by police forces. [60841]

Damian Green: Investigations are an operational matter for the chief officers of police forces.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has assessed the merits of rescinding the sponsorship licence of an embassy where a diplomat is found to be repeatedly accused of trafficking a domestic worker to the UK. [60934]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency would take any such accusation extremely seriously. Action would be taken against a sponsor when the evidence had been established of such activity.

1. *[Official Report, 7 July 2011, Vol. 530, c. 19-20MC.]*

Paragraph 530 of the UK Border Agency's published Tier 2/5 guidance for sponsors states that it may revoke a sponsors licence if:

the sponsor, or any relevant person, is convicted of one of the following offences (unless the conviction is spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974):

any offence under the Immigration Act 1971; the Immigration Act 1988; the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993; the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999; the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002; the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; or the UK Borders Act 2007;

trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Police: Pensions

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has provided for the police pension top-up grant in each year since 2006. [60867]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The current system of police pensions financing was introduced in April 2006, whereby each police authority pays employer and officer contributions into a separate account, which are then used to offset the police pensions in payment by that police authority. Where the income into the police authority pensions account from contributions (plus other payments such as inward transfer values) is insufficient to meet the cash cost of pensions in payment now, it is topped up by Home Office grant. The Home Office has provided total police pensions top-up grant for each financial year since 2006 as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	291
2007-08	352
2008-09	630
2009-10	639
2010-11	[1]721

[1] The figure for 2010-11 is based on police authorities' unaudited data only at this stage, and payment of the balance in respect of 2010-11 is yet to be made; the figure provided is the total expected grant requirement once the balance of payment in arrears has been made.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff the Serious Organised Crime Agency employed in each of the last five years. [60532]

Nick Herbert: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), as of 31 March in the last five years is set out in the following table. The figure for 2007 is headcount, thereafter SOCA moved to reporting full-time equivalent staff numbers.

As at 31 March each year	*Number*
2007	4,285
2008	3,973.45
2009	4,014
2010	4,060.9
2011	3,872.5

UK Border Agency

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average waiting time was at UK Border Agency desks at each Gatwick airport passenger terminal for those *(a)* with and *(b)* without EU passports in each of the last 24 months; [60559]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of UK Border Agency control waiting times at each Gatwick airport passenger terminal. [60560]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency constantly strives to provide a high standard of customer service at the border and is committed to expediting the entry of legitimate passengers and trade that help build the UK economy while at the same time maintaining a secure border.

As a demonstration of the importance we place on passenger clearance times, our targets and performance against them will be published this year (2011-12) as part of the Government transparency agenda. This will enable members of the public to be fully sighted on average passenger clearance times, based on samples taken across the UK's ports and airports. Our current target is to clear 95% of EEA passengers within 25 minutes of joining the queue and non-EEA passengers within 45 minutes. Current year-to-date performance sits at 98% and performance is closely monitored to ensure that deployment of resource is flexed to deal with increases in traffic and maintain overall passenger clearance times while ensuring the border remains secure.

While we do not measure performance against average waiting times we do record them and the details requested are provided in the following tables:

Gatwick North: EEA passengers 2009-10 to 2010-11

2009-10	
Month	*Average queue time*
2009	
April	0:05
May	0:05
June	0:07
July	0:06
August	0:06
September	0:07
October	0:04
November	0:03
December	0:03
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:04
March	0:04
Average	0:05

2010-11	
Month	*Average queue time*
2010	
April	0:04
May	0:04
June	0:05

2010-11	
Month	*Average queue time*
July	0:06
August	0:07
September	0:06
October	0:05
November	0:03
December	0:03
2011	
January	0:04
February	0:04
March	0:04
Average	0:05

Gatwick North: Non-EEA passengers 2009-10 to 2010-11

2009-10	
Month	*Average queue time*
2009	
April	0:09
May	0:08
June	0:12
July	0:10
August	0:09
September	0:11
October	0:06
November	0:04
December	0:05
2010	
January	0:05
February	0:05
March	0:05
Average	0:08

2010-11	
Month	*Average queue time*
2010	
April	0:07
May	0:07
June	0:10
July	0:11
August	0:10
September	0:11
October	0:06
November	0:06
December	0:05
2011	
January	0:06
February	0:05
March	0:06
Average	0:08

Gatwick South: EEA passengers 2009-10 to 2010-11

2009-10	
Month	*Average queue time*
2009	
April	0:08
May	0:09
June	0:17
July	0:10
August	0:10
September	0:08
October	0:06
November	0:05
December	0:05
2010	
January	0:04
February	0:05
March	0:05
Average	0:08

2010-11	
Month	*Average queue time*
2010	
April	0:05
May	0:05
June	0:07
July	0:07
August	0:07
September	0:07
October	0:06
November	0:05
December	0:04
2011	
January	0:04
February	0:05
March	0:05
Average	0:06

Gatwick South: Non EEA passengers 2009-10 to 2010-11

2009-10	
Month	*Average queue time*
2009	
April	0:14
May	0:17
June	0:30
July	0:16
August	0:11
September	0:10
October	0:08
November	0:06
December	0:08
2010	
January	0:05
February	0:08
March	0:07
Average	0:12

2010-11	
Month	*Average queue time*
2010	
April	0:08
May	0:08
June	0:11
July	0:12
August	0:10
September	0:10
October	0:08
November	0:08
December	0:06
2011	
January	0:07
February	0:08
March	0:07
Average	0:08

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most recent estimate is of border control waiting times at *(a)* Heathrow airport and *(b)* Heathrow terminal 4. [60562]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency constantly strives to provide a high standard of customer service at the border and is committed to expediting the entry of legitimate passengers and trade that help build the UK economy while at the same time maintaining a secure border.

As a demonstration of the importance we place on passenger clearance times, our targets and performance against them will be published this year (2011-12) as part of the Government transparency agenda. This will enable members of the public to be fully sighted on average passenger clearance times, based on samples taken across the UK's ports and airports. Our current target is to clear 95% of EEA passengers within 25 minutes of joining the queue and non-EEA passengers within 45 minutes. Current year to date performance sits at 98% and performance is closely monitored to ensure that deployment of resource is flexed to deal with increases in traffic and maintain overall passenger clearance times while ensuring the border remains secure.

While we do not measure performance against average waiting times we do record them and the details requested are in the following tables:

Heathrow terminal 1: EEA passengers

2009-10	
	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:00
May	0:00
June	0:01
July	0:02
August	0:02
September	0:02
October	0:01
November	0:01
December	0:01
2010	
January	0:01
February	0:01
March	0:02
Average	0:02

Heathrow terminal 1: EEA passengers

2010-11	
	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:06
August	0:08
September	0:07
October	0:07
November	0:06
December	0:04
2011	
January	0:04
February	0:03
March	0:03
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 1: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10	
	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:05
August	0:04
September	0:06
October	0:03
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:02
March	0:03
Average	0:03

2010-11	
	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:05
May	0:05
June	0:07
July	0:13
August	0:15

2010-11	Average queue time
September	0:17
October	0:15
November	0:12
December	0:09
2011	
January	0:10
February	0:08
March	0:09
Average	0:06

Heathrow terminal 2: EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:01
July	0:01
August	0:01
September	0:01
October	0:01
November	0:00
Average	0:02

Heathrow terminal 2: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:03
May	0:03
June	0:03
July	0:04
August	0:05
September	0:05
October	0:02
November	0:01
Average	0:02

Immigration operations ceased at Heathrow terminal 2 in November 2009, due to refurbishment.

Heathrow terminal 3: EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:04
May	0:03
June	0:04
July	0:05
August	0:06
September	0:06
October	0:03
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:02

Heathrow terminal 3: EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
March	0:03
Average	0:04

2010-11	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:03
May	0:03
June	0:04
July	0:05
August	0:05
September	0:06
October	0:04
November	0:04
December	0:04
2011	
January	0:05
February	0:05
March	0:06
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 3: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:08
May	0:10
June	0:13
July	0:15
August	0:15
September	0:23
October	0:11
November	0:06
December	0:05
2010	
January	0:08
February	0:07
March	0:08
Average	0:11

2010-11	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:11
May	0:11
June	0:14
July	0:16
August	0:14
September	0:22
October	0:13
November	0:10
December	0:09

2010-11

	Average queue time
2011	
January	0:12
February	0:11
March	0:13
Average	0:18

Heathrow terminal 4: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:02
July	0:02
August	0:02
September	0:02
October	0:02
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:02
February	0:01
March	0.02
Average	0:02

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:04
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:04
August	0:03
September	0:04
October	0:03
November	0:03
December	0:03
2011	
January	0:03
February	0:03
March	0:03
Average	0:04

Heathrow terminal 4: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:06
May	0:06
June	0:08
July	0:09
August	0:07
September	0:13
October	0:13
November	0:07
December	0:07
2010	
January	0:10
February	0:06
March	0:10
Average	0:09

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:16
May	0:13
June	0:18
July	0:22
August	0:10
September	0:23
October	0:14
November	0:13
December	0:15
2011	
January	0:19
February	0:16
March	0:19
Average	0:17

Heathrow terminal 5: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:03
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:03
August	0:04
September	0:04
October	0:04
November	0:03
December	0:04
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:04
March	0:03
Average	0:04

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:05
May	0:04

2010-11	Average queue time
June	0:05
July	0:05
August	0:06
September	0:06
October	0:05
November	0:05
December	0:05
2011	
January	0:05
February	0:06
March	0:05
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 5: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:07
May	0:07
June	0:09
July	0:13
August	0:12
September	0:18
October	0:14
November	0:11
December	0:12
2010	
January	0:12
February	0:12
March	0.11
Average	0:12

2010-11	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:18
May	0:14
June	0:18
July	0:22
August	0:18
September	0:24
October	0:16
November	0:17
December	0:17
2011	
January	0:19
February	0:18
March	0:15
Average	0:18

UN Office on Drugs and Crime: Finance

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK contributed to the budget of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in each of the last five years; and how much she plans to contribute in each of the next five years. [60120]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* The UK provides funds to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through both voluntary donations and through its contribution to the UN Regular Budget. Through voluntary donations, the UK has contributed $40,405,400 to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in the last five years. A total of:

Contributed in:	$
2006	10,357,603
2007	5,001,401
2008	4,447,026
2009	5,784,127
2010	3,613,835

Since the beginning of 2011 a further $11,201,408 has been donated.

Through the UN Regular Budget the UK contributed the following amounts to the UNODC:

Contributed in:	$
2006	1,054,368
2007	1,142,992
2008	1,311,659
2009	1,311,659
2010	1,294,090
2011[1]	1,294,090

[1] Based on current projections

The UK's future contributions to the UNODC through the UN Regular Budget will be dependent on the future allocation of UN Regular Budget funds to the UNODC and on the UN's scale of assessments. The Government continue to support the work of the UNODC and has provided funding this year to support activities assisting partner countries in countering the threats from narcotics and organised crime. We will continue to consider funding options for activity in future years.

Victim Support Schemes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people on police computer databases are flagged as *(a)* adults at risk and *(b)* children at risk. [60893]

James Brokenshire: A specific "at risk" flag common to all national police databases does not exist. However, flags do exist on some databases for example, ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register), and there are other flags that could be considered as indicating an "at risk" status, e.g. suicidal. Furthermore, inclusion on some of the national police databases may in itself be considered indication that the individual is "at risk", e.g. missing persons DNA database. Not all information from police computer databases is held centrally. These systems are operational tools which are not designed to produce the specific information requested.

Visas

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many indefinite leave visas were issued in each month of the last three years. [60505]

Damian Green: We have taken indefinite leave "visas" to mean the number of indefinite leave-to-enter visas issued and the number of in-country indefinite leave to remain applications granted. The requested data tables have been placed in the Library of the House.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

Caroline Flint: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many occasions officials of each Government department have been subject to formal disciplinary proceedings since May 2010. [60449]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally by the Cabinet Office. This is a matter which is delegated to Departments subject to the conditions set out in Chapter 4 of the Civil Service Management Code.

There has only been one case since May 2010 where a member of staff in Cabinet Office was subject to formal disciplinary proceedings and this was in relation to serious misconduct. However, we do not maintain a central record of formal disciplinary action in relation to minor misconduct, as this is dealt with locally by line managers.

Unemployment: York

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate has been made of levels of unemployment in York. [61375]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Question asking what recent estimate has been made of levels of unemployment in York. (61375)

The latest available unemployment estimate for the 12 month period ending September 2010 for York is 6,700.

Unemployment: Young People

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of youth unemployment is in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [61104]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the level of youth unemployment is in (a) England, (b) the North West, (c) Cumbria and (d) Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. (61104)

Due to the small samples, estimates of youth unemployment for some of the requested areas cannot be given. As an alternative, Table 1 shows the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in the requested areas for May 2011, the latest date for which figures are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of people aged 16-24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance In England, the North West, Cumbria and Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency as at May 2011

	Level
England	341,710
North West	54,455
Cumbria	2,565
Westmorland and Lonsdale	125

Source:
Jobcentreplus administrative system

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what information his Department holds on *(a)* the average amount spent on electoral registration in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* the amount spent in each local authority area that failed to meet the participation standards to promote registration in the latest period for which figures are available. [60435]

Mr Harper: This information is not held by the Cabinet Office. The Electoral Commission has published financial data for each local authority in Great Britain, covering the 2007-08 and 2008-09 financial years. Information on the 2009-10 financial year will be published on their website in July 2011.

The information requested under *(a)* can be found on the Commission's website:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

In respect of *(b)*, the Electoral Commission informs me that 47 electoral registration officers did not meet the participation standard to promote electoral registration in the latest period of data collection. The local authority areas of the relevant EROs are provided in the following list. This information can also be found on the Electoral Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards

Adur
Ashford
Barking and Dagenham
Basildon
Blaenau Gwent
Boston
Broadland
Broxtowe
Cannock Chase
Cardiff
Ceredigion
Cherwell

Chiltern
Christchurch
Corby
Craven
Dacorum
Eastbourne
East Lindsey
East Hertfordshire
Eden
Fenland
Flintshire
Halton
Hambleton
Harrogate
Isle of Anglesey
Kingston upon Hull
Lewes
Luton
Maldon
Middlesbrough
Milton Keynes
Norwich
North Lincolnshire
Portsmouth
Preston
Redbridge
Rugby
Solihull
Spelthorne
Stroud
Sutton
Uttlesford
Wiltshire
Worthing
Wycombe.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60689]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My office is located within the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 20 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 70W.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many representations he has received from individuals and organisations in Northern Ireland on reform of the House of Lords since May 2010. [60635]

Mr Harper: Since May 2010 the Government have received two representations on House of Lords reform from individuals and organisations in Northern Ireland.

Members: Allowances

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will discuss with the Chair of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority implications for staff budgets for hon. Members arising from implementation of the reduction in the size of the membership of the House of Commons. [60419]

Mr Harper: While the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 provides for the IPSA to determine the expenses scheme, the informal liaison group established earlier this year provides a forum in which Members of Parliament and members of the board and officials of the IPSA can discuss such issues.

Members: Conduct

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what progress he has made in developing proposals for a power of recall of hon. Members by their constituents. [61044]

Mr Harper: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure and we will announce further details in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what obligations there are on local authorities in respect of the achievement of carbon reduction targets; [61208]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure local authorities contribute to the achievement of carbon reduction targets. [61209]

Gregory Barker: There are no centrally imposed targets on local authorities in respect of the achievement of national carbon reduction targets.

Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide leadership and vision on climate change action in their local communities. Many are enthusiastic about playing their part in meeting national carbon mitigation targets and have already set in place stretching ambitions and policies for emissions in their area, and are making a difference.

To help build capacity DECC funded a £2.5 million Local Carbon Frameworks pilot programme in 2010-11 and we plan to publish the findings from that later this year. The recently signed memorandum of understanding between DECC and the Local Government Group also supports robust, self regulated action on carbon reduction. And we are working with local government to ensure that all local authorities support the roll out of the Green Deal across their areas.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60908]

Gregory Barker: DECC includes visual data security training via the staff induction process and promotes correct access of information via mobile devices to all staff via security e-learning processes, the departmental intranet, individual section security briefings and via DECC all-staff communications.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60336]

Gregory Barker: The Department has introduced 13 statutory instruments that came into force between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011. They are:

The Feed-in Tariffs (Specified Maximum Capacity and Functions) (Amendment) Order 2011

Into force 30 May 2011

No costs

The Electricity (Individual Generation Exemptions) Order 2011

Into force 18 May 2011

No costs

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Into force 13 April 2011

No costs

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) (Fees) and National Emissions Inventory Regulations 2011

Into force 6 April 2011

Costs are detailed in the Impact Assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/727/pdfs/uksiem_20110727_en.pdf

The Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Handling (Finance and Fees) Regulations 2011

Into force 6 April 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/134/pdfs/uksiem_20110134_en.pdf

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (Amendment) Order 2011

Into force 1 April 2011

No costs

The Warm Home Discount Regulations 2011

Into force 1 April 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1033/pdfs/uksiem_20111033_en.pdf

The Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order 2011

Into force 1 April 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/984/pdfs/uksiem_20110984_en.pdf

The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Into force 30 March 2011

No costs

The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Into force 30 March 2011

No costs

The Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011

Into force 25 March 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/765/pdfs/uksiem_20110765_en.pdf

The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations 2011

Into force 14 March 2011

No costs

The Gas (Exemptions) Order 2011

Into force 1 March 2011

Costs are detailed in the impact assessment, available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/232/pdfs/uksiem_20110232_en.pdf

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60496]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not revoked any regulatory measures between 1 March and 31 May 2011.

However, DECC remains committed to simplifying the statute book and reducing the burden of regulation on business where possible. Internal reviews of our regulatory stock and engagement with our stakeholders has identified a number of potential repeals and simplifications to date, with the exact process for repealing these currently being explored. We will continue our efforts to identify opportunities to eliminate any unnecessary burden on businesses this year through full engagement with the 'Red Tape Challenge'.

Energy: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government bringing forward proposals to protect tenants from unfair eviction arising from a request for an energy efficiency upgrade to their homes; and if he will make a statement. [61211]

Gregory Barker: I have raised this issue with my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Local Government and we intend to consider the potential for unfair evictions well in advance of secondary legislation for the private rented sector. Our initial consideration will be informed by a stakeholder working group.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what obligations there are on local authorities in respect of steps to tackle fuel poverty. [61210]

Gregory Barker: There are no obligations on local authorities as regards fuel poverty directly.

Local authorities are involved in seeking to maximise the benefits of schemes that are available to assist those who are in, or who are vulnerable to, fuel poverty. For example, such schemes to improve the energy efficiency of households include Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and the Community Energy Savings programme.

Fuel Poverty: North East England

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* North West Durham constituency living in fuel poverty in 2009-10. [61487]

Gregory Barker: In 2008, the latest year for which data are available, there were estimated to be 236,000 households living in fuel poverty in the North East region.

In the North West Durham constituency, the figure was 9,400 households.

Insulation: Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a national plan for insulating houses in areas of high deprivation; and if he will make a statement. [61212]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal is a national framework which will support the insulation of all homes from 2012. There is no intention to create a separate plan for delivering insulation to deprived areas. However, we are also taking powers in the Energy Bill to introduce a new Energy Company Obligation (ECO) which will have a specific focus on low income and vulnerable households, and will be an important route for the insulation of homes in areas of high deprivation.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each response to his Department's consultation on the fast-track review of feed-in tariffs received since 22 March 2011. [61243]

Gregory Barker: Responses to public consultations are not generally placed in the Library. However, the non-confidential responses received in relation to the fast-track consultation on the Feed-in Tariffs scheme are published alongside the Government response document on the DECC website:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/fit_review/fit_review.aspx

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many solar photovoltaic installations with a generating capacity between *(a)* 50 and 100 kilowatts, *(b)* 101 and 150 kilowatts and *(c)* 151 kilowatts and five megawatts were in receipt of feed-in tariffs in the latest period for which figures are available. [61246]

Gregory Barker: At the end of the first year of the Feed in Tariffs scheme (31 March 2011) the following solar photovoltaic schemes were confirmed:

(a) five schemes between 50 and 100 kilowatts;

(b) Zero schemes between 101 and 150 kilowatts;

(c) One scheme between 151 kilowatts and 5 megawatts.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of his decision to set new feed-in tariffs for small-scale low-carbon electricity on the UK's development of solar photovoltaics projects. [61252]

Gregory Barker: The recent Government response to the fast-track review of Feed-in Tariffs confirmed the Government's intention to introduce new tariffs for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations of between 50 kilowatts (kW) and five megawatts (MW) and all stand-alone installations. We consider that, under the new tariffs, some schemes will continue to be viable, particularly under the new tariff for 50kW to 150kW projects. This, together with activity at the domestic scale, will contribute to the development of a viable PV industry in Great Britain.

EDUCATION

Business Plans

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made on actions *(a)* 5.1.i, *(b)* 5.1.ii, *(c)* 5.2.ii and *(d)* 5.2.iii of his Department's business plan which were due for completion in March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [58323]

Sarah Teather: An updated business plan for the Department for Education was published in May 2011. Progress updates on actions 5.1.i, 5.1.ii, 5.2.ii and 5.2.iii from the initial Department for Education business plan, published in November 2010, are set out in the following table:

Action	*Progress update*
5.1(i) Develop a Sure Start children's centres reform programme	The reform programme has been developed, and will be articulated and published as part of the Foundation Years policy statement in summer 2011. Further work will continue over the next two years to implement the reform programme.
5.1 (ii) Work with local authorities to develop a plan to increase voluntary and community sector involvement within Sure Start children's centres, improve accountability arrangements, increase the use of evidence-based interventions, and introduce greater payment by results	This action is under way. This is now part of the Foundation Years policy statement and will be articulated and published as part of that statement in summer 2011.

Action	Progress update
5.2(ii) Develop proposals to improve the quality of the early years workforce	This action is under way. This is now part of the Foundation Years policy statement and will be articulated and published as part of that statement in summer 2011.
5.2 (iii) to Explore options for allowing parents greater flexibility to use their early education entitlement	This action is completed. We are working with seven local authorities to trial new approaches to giving parents greater flexibility in how they use their free entitlement to early education. It is anticipated these trials will inform future policy development.

Copies of the updated business plan and structural reform plan progress report for the Department for Education are available at the following link:

http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/transparency/srp/

Child: Poverty

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what resources his Department expects to allocate to the implementation of measures set out in "A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" in each of the next three years. [57652]

Sarah Teather: The Government's first national child poverty strategy was set against the backdrop of a challenging spending review that placed a high priority on improving the life chances of children and protecting vulnerable families, while also making crucial progress in reducing the nation's deficit. To improve life chances, we will tackle head-on the causes of poverty which underpin low achievement, aspiration and opportunity across generations. To help achieve these goals, the Department has introduced a number of initiatives specifically targeted at the most vulnerable children and families in our society:

the Fairness Premium worth £7.2 billion over the spending review period;

the Pupil Premium worth £2.5 billion a year to 2014-15;

the Early Intervention Grant worth £2,222 million in 2011-12 and £2,307 million in 2012-13;

the 16-19 Bursary Fund which guarantees the most vulnerable 16-19-year-olds bursaries of £1,200 a year.

The Government's localism agenda enables local areas to agree their own tailored and place-based approaches to tackling child poverty. The Child Poverty Act 2010 established a framework for local partners to co-operate to tackle child poverty in their areas, and the sector-led support package should build capability further. In addition, local areas have access to a Child Poverty Core Offer of sector-led support to help them tackle child poverty. As part of this offer, we will be sharing the practice and learning from the Child Poverty pilots that have run in over 70 areas over the last three years.

The roll-out of Community Budgets, payment by results and social impact bonds, together with an increased focus on evidence-based early intervention, will further support local areas to establish innovative approaches to tackling child poverty.

Class Sizes

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average class size is of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) East Sussex, (ii) Brighton and Hove, (iii) Brighton, Kemptown constituency and (iv) West Sussex in each of the last five years. [59183]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the table.

Data for 2011, at national and local authority level, will be published on 22 June and will be available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Maintained primary and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Classes as taught[3]. As at January each year. In East Sussex and Brighton and Hove local authorities, Brighton Kemptown parliamentary constituency and West Sussex local authority

	Average class size							
	East Sussex local authority		Brighton and Hove local authority		Brighton Kemptown parliamentary constituency		West Sussex local authority	
	Maintained primary[1]	State-funded secondary[1, 2]	Maintained primary[1]	State-funded secondary[1, 2]	Maintained primary[1]	State-funded secondary[1, 2]	Maintained primary[1]	State-funded secondary[1, 2]
2006	27.5	21.6	27.4	22.8	27.2	23.2	26.6	21.8
2007	27.3	22.1	27.9	22.7	27.2	22.9	26.6	21.5
2008	27.3	21.6	28.1	22.1	27.2	22.1	26.6	21.2
2009	27.2	21.6	27.9	21.7	26.5	21.9	26.9	21.3
2010	27.4	21.9	27.9	22.2	26.6	22.5	26.7	21.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] One-teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
Source:
School Census

Health Education: Sex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the materials used in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools for the teaching of sex education; what plans he has for the use of such material in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [59040]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to schools on the materials used in sex education in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools; what recent representations he has received on this issue from (i) hon. Members

and (ii) the parents of (A) primary and (B) secondary school pupils; what response was given by his Department in each such case; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such response; and if he will make a statement. [59041]

Mr Gibb: I have received a number of representations on the materials used in primary schools for the teaching of sex education. I believe, however, that schools are best placed to use their professional judgment to determine their own approach to sex education—including the resources they use to support their teaching—so that they can take account of the views of parents, the needs of the local community and the ethos of the school. We have made no assessment of the materials used in primary and secondary schools for the teaching of sex education, and have no plans to do so.

All schools must have regard to the Secretary of State for Education's statutory guidance, "Sex and Relationships Education (2000)", when teaching sex education. This is designed to protect pupils from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned. Inappropriate images should not be used nor should explicit material not directly related to explanation.

We have received three recent PQs from one hon. Member on the issue of guidance issued to schools on materials used in sex education in primary schools. I refer my hon. Friend to the responses given on 14 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 50W and on 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 845W. In addition, we have received a number of letters from hon. Members, on behalf of their constituents, and from members of the public on this issue.

A copy of the response to each of these letters can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I have placed in the House Libraries a copy of a response to one of these letters; others would have received a similar reply. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 I have redacted all personal information from this response.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons his Department is not undertaking its review of personal, social, health and economic education as part of the review of the National Curriculum. [59416]

Mr Gibb: The remit for the National Curriculum Review is to consider those subjects that are currently part of the National Curriculum. Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is not part of the National Curriculum, and therefore will not be considered by the National Curriculum Review.

However, it is because children and young people can benefit enormously from high-quality PSHE that we announced our intention to conduct an internal review into PSHE. The review will determine how schools can improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that stakeholders can contribute to his Department's review of personal, social, health and economic education. [59518]

Mr Gibb: I can confirm that when we launch the review of personal, social, health and economic education, we will consult with a range of stakeholders including teachers, parents, faith groups, subject associations and campaign groups.

Pre-school Education

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education on what dates his Department has held *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions with external organisations or individuals on the formulation of his Department's policy statement on early years education; and what the name is of each organisation and individual consulted. [58324]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education and Department of Health are committed to developing the policy statements on the early years in a wholly collaborative manner. We have engaged a wide range of individuals and organisations in meetings and discussions at ministerial and official level over the past six months. In particular, we are working very closely with a steering group of sector leaders who are advising us on the statements, and a number of other groups focused on specific policy issues. Details of the steering group, including biographies, are available on the Department for Education's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/earlylearningandchildcare/developing/b0075088/co-production-steering-group/

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to publish his Department's early years policy statement. [58374]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education and Department of Health plan to publish the early years policy statement this summer.

Schools: Attendance

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parental requests for authorised absence during term time were *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined in (i) Walsall education authority, (ii) Bradford education authority, (iii) Stoke-on-Trent education authority, (iv) Wolverhampton education authority and (v) England in each of the last five years. [59000]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not collect data on the number of parental requests for authorised absence during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that head teachers may grant leave of absence during term time. The Department looks to schools themselves to consider each request as they can only be judged on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances. We would not want to interfere with that process.

The available absence statistics can be found in the "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2009/10" Statistical First Release at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml

The authorised absence rates for Walsall, Bradford, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton local authorities and England for 2009/10 are shown in the table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Pupil absence by type of school 2009/10. In Walsall, Bradford, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton local authorities and England

	Percentage of sessions missed due to authorised absence[4]:			
	Maintained primary schools[1]	*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]*	*Special schools[3]*	*Total*
Walsall	5.16	5.74	8.67	5.47
Bradford	4.66	4.82	8.82	4.73
Stoke-on-Trent	4.27	4.65	6.69	4.47
Wolverhampton	5.18	5.61	9.35	5.45
England	4.54	5.43	8:30	5.00

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] The number of sessions missed due to authorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Disclosure of Information

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's guidance to schools on giving access to information on a child's progress to both parents where those parents are separated. [60038]

Sarah Teather: The current guidance, "Schools, Parents and Parental Responsibility", published in 2000, gives advice on the rights, under education law, of non-resident parents to be involved in their child's education. We know however that concerns have been expressed about this guidance. The coalition Government are reviewing schools guidance as part of their commitment to reducing bureaucracy. In reviewing this set of guidance we will seek to improve the clarity. New guidance will help all schools understand their legal obligations to provide information to parents about their child's progress, including that separated parents should be treated equally wherever possible.

Schools: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils at each school in Reading West constituency gained three or more A-levels at grades of A to A* in each of the last five years. [58992]

Mr Gibb: The information is as follows:

Number and percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more A levels at grades A-A in selected years*

Secondary schools in Reading West constituency		*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	Number	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0
	Percentage	[1]—	0	[1]—	0	0
Denefield School	Number	0	0	3	3	0
	Percentage	0	0	4	5	0
John Madejski Academy[2]	Number	n/a	n/a	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
	Percentage	n/a	n/a	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Little Heath School	Number	9	6	17	10	24
	Percentage	7	4	11	6	14
Penghourne College	Number	6	3	5	8	8
	Percentage	10	5	10	14	12
Prospect School	Number	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
	Percentage	0	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
Theale Green Community School	Number	7	4	7	9	16

Secondary schools in Reading West constituency		Number and percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more A levels at grades A*-A in selected years				
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Percentage	7	12	7	8	14

[1] Figures have not been shown due to very small numbers.
[2] Figures for John Madejski Academy are only available from 2008.
[3] Figure has been suppressed due to 10 or fewer students in the institution cohort.

Special Educational Needs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements he plans to put in place to protect vulnerable children following the implementation of his planned reform of special educational need statements. [59064]

Sarah Teather: The vision set out in the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disability is to create a system which improves the life chances of the most vulnerable children in society.

The proposed reform of statements of special educational needs will be tested in pathfinder areas. The protections of the current system will remain in place during the testing phase.

Teachers: Training

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the quality of teachers of the withdrawal of funding for Master's-level continuous professional development for teachers. [60211]

Mr Gibb: The single most important determinant of a good education is for every child to be taught by good teachers. We recognise that teachers are our greatest asset and that their professional development is very important.

This Government's approach to teachers' professional development is based on research that shows that teachers learn best from other professionals through observing teaching, being observed, and receiving feedback from peers.

We are creating a national network of teaching schools on the model of teaching hospitals and launching a new scholarship scheme for teachers.

The Government's approach to teachers' professional development is outlined in the White Paper entitled 'The Importance of Teaching' published on 24 November 2010.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many newly qualified teacher placements were advertised by each local education authority in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011 to date. [61386]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is not collected centrally.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Farming Regulation. [61230]

Mr Paice: The independent Task Force on Farm Regulation published its report on 17 May. The report makes over 200 recommendations following an extensive review of regulations that affect farmers and producers. We have identified a number of areas from the report where we can take immediate action. The Government will now look closely at the task force's other recommendations and publish an initial response this autumn with a full response early in 2012.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* legal and *(b)* policy advice she received from officials in her Department on the Austrian ban on wild animals in circuses. [57264]

Mr Paice: The Government's legal advice is protected by legal professional privilege and the Government's position is that they do not ordinarily waive the legal privilege attaching to any legal advice received and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not propose to do so on this occasion. The formulation of Government policy is not normally disclosed and is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, legal and policy advice on the Austrian ban on the use of wild animals in circuses has mainly centred on the details of the Ombudsman's and European Commission's investigations following a complaint by the European Circus Association.

Carbon Emissions: Plastic Bags

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the likely effects on levels of carbon emissions of implementation of a duty on businesses to charge for plastic carrier bags. [60022]

Richard Benyon: Figures for the likely reduction in carbon emissions are not currently available. Such calculations would be made as part of an impact assessment for any future policy for the reduction of single use carrier bags.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60182]

Richard Benyon: The Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental bodies use the Government website Contracts Finder to publish all opportunities greater that £10,000. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged to register on this site and are automatically advised of these opportunities.

Many DEFRA agencies and bodies tender contracts using the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) 'Buying Solutions' framework contracts. OGC policy encourages small businesses to compete for work under these frameworks.

Droughts

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers she has to direct the manner in which water companies communicate hosepipe bans nationally. [58282]

Richard Benyon: The Water Industry Act sets out the process by which a water company must notify its customers of a temporary use ban. The company must publish information in at least two newspapers which circulate in the area within which the ban is to apply, and it must provide details on its website.

Water companies have statutory drought plans which set out the steps they will take in response to a drought, including the triggers that will lead them to take those actions. The process for preparing the plans includes consultation with customers and other stakeholders.

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has powers to specify any matters the drought plan should address. However, it is the responsibility of each water company to develop a plan that will enable it to fulfil its water supply duty in a way that takes account of the particular circumstances of its supply area.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the steps taken by countries with climates similar to the UK to manage the introduction of water restrictions in times of drought. [58339]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not commissioned any comparative work on drought measures in different countries in recent years. However, the Department has contributed, through an EU working group, to the development of a report on water scarcity and droughts which was adopted on 18 July. 2008. The reports associated with this provide a comparison between drought measures and actions in different parts of Europe, and this work is continuing.

Following the drought in 2004-06, DEFRA commissioned Waterwise to produce a report on the effectiveness of hosepipe bans and other water use restrictions in managing the impacts of drought. As part of that work Waterwise considered the steps taken in other countries to introduce water restrictions. The report was published in November 2006 and its finding taken into account when DEFRA consulted in 2007 on proposals to update the legislative framework for managing drought.

In addition, in the last five years DEFRA and the Environment Agency have jointly funded research comparing drought situations across mainland Europe, as well as the effectiveness of drought measures in the UK in extreme droughts.

Droughts: Horticulture

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department made of the effect on garden centres and the gardening industry of *(a)* hosepipe bans and *(b)* prolonged periods without rainfall in 2006. [58187]

Richard Benyon: No separate assessment was made of the impact on garden centres and the gardening industry of the dry spell in 2006.

When water is in short supply, the statutory framework for managing droughts is designed to protect the public water supply for essential domestic uses. Water resources legislation enables Government to manage water abstraction demands, taking account of water availability, and the needs of businesses, consumers and the environment. Temporary restrictions on non-essential uses of water can help defer or avoid the need for more stringent demand restrictions on customers and businesses, and help to protect the environment.

Environment Agency: Pay

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff of the Environment Agency receive London weighting allowance. [60444]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The May 2011 Environment Agency payroll shows that 385 full-time and 16 part-time members of staff received the London weighting allowance.

Fisheries

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will take steps to reserve for active fishermen the allocation of UK fixed quota; [60232]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing tradable permit schemes for fisheries management; [60233]

(3) what her policy is on establishing a register of fishermen that hold fixed quota allocation. [60235]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is currently consulting on proposals to reform the fisheries management arrangements in England, with the aim of securing a more profitable and sustainable industry. Options being explored include the allocation of tradable fixed quota allocations (FQAs) to fishermen in the English under-10m fleet, and the development of a public register of FQA holdings to help build greater transparency into the system. Views

have also been received on the issue of the holding of quota by non-active or non-fishing interests.

No decisions have yet been taken on the final reform package. The consultation closes on 30 June, after which all responses will be reviewed in order to determine the next steps for this work.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with fish producer organisations in Northern Ireland in advance of the forthcoming negotiations for total allowable catches for each fish species; and if she will make a statement. [60826]

Richard Benyon: A scientific briefing session for stakeholders has been arranged for 1 July, where the producer organisations and officials of Northern Ireland will be present. The issue of all fish stocks of interest to the UK will be addressed at this meeting.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation on the environmental effects of the cultivation of protein through aquaculture. [60933]

Richard Benyon: The UK participates at Food and Agriculture Organisation meetings on fisheries and aquaculture issues, most recently the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in February 2011. The UK recognises the growing global importance of aquaculture for food and nutrition security and supports international initiatives that ensure growth in the aquaculture sector is environmentally sustainable.

Floods: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of the risk of flooding in North East Hertfordshire constituency arising from increased surface water. [60510]

Richard Benyon: Following the Pitt Review, the Environment Agency produced national surface water flooding maps in 2008. These were provided to local resilience forums and gave an initial indication of areas that may be susceptible to surface water flooding.

In March 2010 the Environment Agency published the second generation of these, entitled 'Flood Map for Surface Water'. These included a number of improvements, such as the influence of buildings and the sewer system.

For a rainfall event with a one-in-30 chance of occurring in any one year there are approximately 2,000 residential properties at risk from surface water flooding within the North East Hertfordshire constituency, and a total of 3,200 buildings.

For a rainfall event with a one-in-200 chance of occurring in any one year there are approximately 4,000 residential properties at risk, and a total of 6,100 buildings (about 10% of the buildings in the constituency).

The Flood Risk Regulations (2009) require lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) report of local flood risks for their area. The PFRA has to make use of all available information and will include the maps mentioned above. The local authorities will be using the maps and any other local information for the PFRA to make their best assessment of flood risk from surface water and may revise the figures indicated above.

The Floods and Water Management Act requires LLFAs to prepare local flood risk management strategies. Hertfordshire county council is the LLFA in this constituency and will be preparing the strategy in due course.

Food Supply

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to increase the amount of home-grown food consumed in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [59451]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* As set out in the DEFRA Business Plan, our priority is to support and develop British farming and encourage sustainable food production. We will work to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the food chain, including farms and the fish industry, to help ensure a secure and environmentally sustainable supply of food. Currently the UK produces the equivalent of 74% of indigenous foods and 60% of our food overall.

The fruit and vegetable taskforce on increasing consumption and production brought together the whole supply chain to identify and unblock barriers; they reported in summer 2010 and agreed an action plan in October 2010. The action plan was divided into production, supply chain and consumption. Most recommendations, which are fairly technical, have made significant progress and we are looking to produce an updated progress report later in the year.

We will also work to create an environment where consumers are able to make informed choice, including working with industry for better information provenance and quality of food, e.g. encouraging the whole food supply chain to work together to provide clearer origin information and working with specialist producers to help them apply for registration under the protected food name schemes.

Forestry Commission: Redundancy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the likely redundancy costs in the Forestry Commission in each of the next four financial years. [58206]

Mr Paice: The Government's clear commitment to tackle the deficit resulted in a tough spending review for all Departments. Although the Forestry Commission (FC) is a non-ministerial Government Department, it receives its budget from DEFRA's Resource Budget. The net costs for voluntary exit and redundancy schemes will be met by DEFRA where there is sound business rationale and value for money. DEFRA has to achieve a reduction of 30% in real terms over the spending review period.

The FC worked closely with Ministers so they could take decisions on an appropriate spending review settlement to ensure the delivery of key outcomes such as biosecurity.

The FC's settlement, which equates to a reduction of around 25% over the next four years, also took account of FC England's ability to generate income from operating the public forest estate e.g. through timber sales. The restructuring of FC England, FC Great Britain and Forest Research has been based on offering a combination of voluntary exit and voluntary redundancy schemes. The latest estimate of likely costs for these exits in each of the next four years is as follows:

Best estimated cost[1]

	£ million
2011-12	2.9
2012-13	8.4
2013-14	0.6
2014-15	0.5

[1] Subject to change dependent on take-up.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Commission's legislative proposal on member state decision-making on the cultivation of genetically-modified crops. [58199]

Mr Paice: The Government do not support the Commission's proposal. We do not believe that it will provide member states with meaningful discretion to take legally sound national decisions. We are also concerned the proposal would undermine the principle of the single market and move away from regulatory decisions being grounded on a science-based safety assessment.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58690]

Richard Benyon: The core Department and some of its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies are provided with IT and network services under a single outsourced infrastructure managed service contract with IBM UK Ltd that expires in February 2018.

The annual monetary value of the contract will vary from year to year as it is based on services taken, including projects and consumables.

In the fiscal year 2010-11 the amount paid under this contract to IBM by all areas of the Department, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies who took services, projects or consumables was £131.324 million. Please note this figure includes some elements of VAT.

Land: Ownership

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals on land-owning land maintenance companies. [59763]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no plans to change the law of England and Wales in relation to the rights of the owners of individual properties, whether freehold or leasehold, against land-owning land maintenance companies, but are keeping the situation under review. The law on these matters in Scotland and Northern Ireland and on housing law in Wales is the responsibility of the relevant devolved Administration.

Plastic Bags

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the European Commission's proposal for an EU-wide ban on plastic carrier bags. [60238]

Richard Benyon: We support the Commission's consultation looking at the possible options for the reduction in the use of plastic carrier bags, including charging and a ban. We are currently assessing all the options and will submit our response to the consultation in due course.

Rivers

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress British Waterways and the Environment Agency have made in removing barriers to fish movement in the River Trent. [60110]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency has identified 15 barriers to fish migration on the River Trent. All can be passed at some flows by salmon with varying degrees of difficulty. Progress in tackling these barriers is at varying stages. In some cases, the design of fish passes has been completed and negotiations have started on implementation. In other cases, further work is needed to determine what fish passage measures are needed.

Some of these barriers are at weirs which are the subject of proposals for hydropower development. For its part, British Waterways is working with a number of hydro-electricity station developers to construct hydro plants at most of the River Trent weirs below Shardlow. All of these plants incorporate a fish and eel pass.

The Environment Agency will also be reviewing all structures along the Trent and its tributaries over the next few years to ensure compliances with the Eel Regulations. This will require eel and elver passage to be enabled at weirs, locks, and all other obstructions.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to revise river management plans; and what assessment she has made of the compliance of those plans with the EU Water Framework Directive. [60751]

Richard Benyon: The first river basin management plans were published in December 2009 as required by the water framework directive. These are due to be updated by 22 December 2015, in accordance with the directive. The European Commission is currently in the process of undertaking a compliance assessment of the plans, but we believe they meet the requirements of the directive.

Rural Areas: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her

Department has provided guidance to *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* other Government Departments to assist them in assessing the effects of spending decisions in rural areas. [60581]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 17 June 2011]*: DEFRA provided a short guidance note to all Departments in August 2010 to assist them in understanding the differences between urban and rural areas and the importance of rural proofing all policies and spending decisions.

We continue to work closely with all Departments, including HM Treasury, to ensure that they reflect rural needs and interests in their policies, programmes and spending decisions.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies for which she is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60205]

Richard Benyon: The Department and its executive agencies, with the exception of the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Food, Environment and Research Agency (FERA), are unable at present to identify accurately in their systems all small and medium-sized enterprises and their locations. To provide an answer would require a significant amount of manual effort and would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department and its Executive agencies are working on introducing changes to systems and processes to capture and record improved data on all small and medium-sized enterprises consistent with the needs of the Government policies on transparency and commitments to SMEs.

The proportion of CEFAS contracts placed with SMEs is:

(i) Scotland: 2%

(ii) South Lanarkshire: 0%

(iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West: 0.09%.

FERA has reviewed expenditure in Scotland and has identified one supplier only in South Lanarkshire that is a SME. It has no suppliers in the Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency.

Seas and Oceans

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to receive the most recent scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea on total allowable catch; and if she will make a statement. [60140]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA will receive the most recent scientific advice by 29 June. A scientific briefing session for stakeholders has been arranged for 1 July, where the fishing industry will be present. The issue of all fish stocks of interest to England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be addressed at this meeting.

Seas and Oceans: Ireland

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to improve the water quality of the Irish sea off the coast of England. [60259]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency works in partnership with the Marine Management Organisation to achieve cleaner coasts and healthier seas, including on the Irish Sea Conservation Zone Project.

The quality of waters off the coast of England used for bathing and by shellfish has improved over the last 30 years as a result of significant investment. The National Environment Programme, which forms part of United Utilities' Asset Management Plan for 2010-15, includes schemes designed to improve the quality of shellfish and bathing waters.

The environmental improvements included in the North West and Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plans will help deliver improvements to the water quality of the Irish sea, as required by the water framework directive. The Environment Agency has also completed a review of all environmental permits that could impact on the European designated estuarine and coastal sites adjacent to the Irish sea under the habitats directive. Required improvements will be implemented through changes to environmental permits through the river basin planning cycle of the water framework directive.

Under DEFRA's Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative there are four priority catchments to mitigate diffuse pollution from agriculture and help improve water quality in the areas. Phase 3 of the initiative (which runs from 2011-13) is likely to expand into four further catchments to improve estuarine and coastal waters.

We have implemented the Nitrates Directive (Council Directive EEC/676/1991) by introducing the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008. This legislation is intended to reduce the loss of nitrates from agricultural land (the major source of nitrate in our surface and ground waters) in areas where watercourses are polluted with these.

The Environment Agency also works with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to ensure that nuclear sites such as Sellafield will meet the UK Strategy for Radioactive Discharges. The Environment Agency continues to inspect and audit Sellafield Ltd's arrangements to ensure that best available techniques are used to prevent or minimise discharges to the Irish sea.

31 beaches on this section of the English coast are designated as bathing waters under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) and there are 14 shellfish waters designated under the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). These directives set water quality standards and are therefore drivers for improvement to coastal water quality.

Single Payment Schemes

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress her Department has made in delivering Single Payment Scheme payments. [60261]

Mr Paice: The Rural Payments Agency met the EU benchmark to pay 95.238% of the 2010 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) fund value by end of June 2011 during week commencing 16 May 2011. This was reached two weeks ahead of expectations and six weeks ahead of the closure of the payment window at the end of June.

Waste Oil

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on *(a)* the effects of waste oil on watercourses and *(b)* theft of waste oil. [60643]

Richard Benyon: Oil and fuels are the second most frequent type of pollutant of inland waters in England and Wales that are reported to the Environment Agency. Oil is a highly visible pollutant that can reduce levels of dissolved oxygen in rivers and affect water abstracted for drinking water, making it unsuitable for use; it can also harm wildlife.

Oil pollution incidents reported to the Environment Agency have halved compared with 10 years ago, since the introduction of the oil storage regulations in England, which put in place robust storage and containment requirements. There are now around 3,000 reported pollution incidents involving oil and fuels every year.

It is not possible to identify offences of theft of waste oil from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. Anyone transporting, handling or treating waste oil will need to comply with waste management legislation.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the level of incentives for energy from waste cooking oil. [60653]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has not had direct discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), or the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, the right hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), on the level of incentives for energy from waste cooking oil. DEFRA officials continue to engage with officials in the Department of Energy and Climate Change on their incentives schemes for renewable energy, including the renewables obligation which is currently undergoing a banding review.

Water

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the Natural Environment White Paper, what her timetable is for implementation of measures to deliver investment to meet future water demand and protect ecosystems. [60509]

Richard Benyon: We are currently considering how we can reform the abstraction regime to provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystems. Further details will be announced in the Water White Paper, due for publication by December.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Tobacco

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he holds on addiction rates for *(a)* alcohol, *(b)* tobacco and *(c)* controlled substances in each primary care trust area. [60352]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1280-82W, which gives regional, estimates of addiction rates.

Cancer: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has given to primary care trusts on the use of the Cancer Drugs Fund to fund cancer treatments approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) but which are awaiting full implementation of NICE guidance; and if he will make a statement. [60681]

Paul Burstow: The Department published Guidance to support operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12 on 23 March 2011. This makes clear that where the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has positively appraised a technology for the treatment of a particular indication, then it should be made available on the national health service in line with NICE'S recommendations. In these cases, primary care trusts (PCTs) would normally be expected to assume responsibility for patients whose treatment had previously been supported by the fund.

PCTs are normally required to provide funding for NICE technology appraisal recommendations within three months of the publication of final guidance. PCTs and strategic health authorities should therefore agree arrangements for the transfer of funding responsibility from the Cancer Drugs Fund to PCTs within this period of time.

A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

Care Homes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the financial incentives for care home owners to invest in their services. [60647]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made by the Department.

However, it is estimated that by 2026 the number of people aged 85 is projected to double and the number of people aged over 100 to quadruple[1]. Some of these may require residential care services.

[1] Government Actuary's Department, 2007.

Care Homes: Inspections

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with what frequency safeguarding boards review inspection reports on care homes. [59993]

Paul Burstow: Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) are local independent bodies, which are made up of key local partners in an area. They always include the local authority, local health partners and the police and frequently involve other organisations such as voluntary organisations, representatives of the Care Quality Commission and service users. As the lead local responsible agency for adult safeguarding, the local authority usually convenes and manages the board.

SABs make their own decisions on the degree of scrutiny they give to care homes. In addition to SABs, local commissioners can be expected to review inspection reports when they renew contracts or place residents in care homes.

Care Quality Commission: Finance

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the budget of the Care Quality Commission is for 2011-12; [60520]

(2) if he will increase the budget of the Care Quality Commission. [60522]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has an initial 2011-12 revenue budget settlement of £50 million from the Department. The CQC has also estimated that fees due from registered providers in 2011-12 will amount to £92 million. The Department will shortly confirm the CQC's initial 2011-12 budget for capital and associated revenue charges.

The CQC's financial position is kept under constant review during the financial year.

Care Quality Commission: Vacancies

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many unfilled posts there were in the Care Quality Commission on 31 March 2011. [60669]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission has advised that it had 249 vacancies on 31 March 2011, and that it began a recruitment exercise in April 2011.

Carers

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the work of the Cambridgeshire Carers' Partnership Board, if he will assess the merits of establishing a national carers' partnership board for the purposes of facilitating discussion and highlighting the needs of carers. [60864]

Paul Burstow: The Department has asked the Government's expert advisory body, the Standing Commission on Carers, to carry out fact-finding visits during 2011-12 to collect actual and emerging positive practice around carers' lives and contribute to the development of the evidence base. Membership of the Commission includes a wide range of expertise including experience of caring.

The Commission has already been in discussion with Cambridgeshire county council and NHS Cambridgeshire with a view to carrying out a visit during July. The Commission will be interested to learn more about the work of the Cambridgeshire Partnership Board.

There is already a Cross Government Carers Strategy Board which is responsible for the delivery of the Carers' Strategy across Government and is accountable to Ministers. Membership includes national voluntary carers' organisations, professional bodies, as well as Government Departments.

Carers: Finance

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS funding to support carers in the community is reaching the carer organisations for which it is intended. [60593]

Paul Burstow: The Department is making an additional £400 million available in primary care trust (PCT) baselines to fund carers' breaks between 2011-2015. This funding is included in PCT allocations. The money is not ring-fenced as PCTs have flexibility to decide how much to invest on individual priorities in the light of their local circumstances and priorities. It is also for PCTs to decide if they wish to allocate any of this money to local organisations to support carers in their area.

However, the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework, published on 15 December, makes it clear that:

"PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011/12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

For 2011-12, PCTs should publish local plans where appropriate and, specifically, they are required to publish their local plans to deliver both dementia services and services to support carers.

Carers: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS Hertfordshire spent on respite breaks for carers in the most recent year for which information is available. [60901]

Paul Burstow: Information on spend on respite care breaks is not held centrally.

However, NHS Hertfordshire and the local authority have had a pooled budget (led by the local authority) in place for carers and carers' support since 2009-10 and they intend to continue that arrangement beyond 2011-12.

There is a pooled budget of £630,000 in 2011-12 to support carers, primarily for breaks services.

In addition, the primary care trust contributes £184,000 per year towards the core costs of Carers in Hertfordshire, the local voluntary sector carers' organisation.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60704]

Mr Simon Burns: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is a cross-Government initiative.

Those Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on a regular basis in taking forward the review. The Department of Health does not have a responsibility for employment-related law.

Departments are engaging with their stakeholders on issues relating to the employment law review in accordance with their standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Contraceptives

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for emergency contraceptives were issued in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [61103]

Anne Milton: Drugs used in emergency contraception are classified in the British National Formulary (BNF) section 7.3.5—Emergency contraception. The number of prescription items that were written and dispensed in England for each issuing primary care trust (PCT) in 2010-11, is shown in the table.

PCT	*Number of prescription items*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	840
Barking and Dagenham	948
Barnet	1,330
Barnsley	1,401
Bassetlaw	359
Bath and North East Somerset	1,023
Bedfordshire	2,324
Berkshire East	1,556
Berkshire West	2,870
Bexley Care Trust	777
Birmingham East and North	2,781
Blackburn with Darwen CTP	258
Blackpool	887
Bolton	916
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	2,293
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	3,150
Brent Teaching	1,684
Brighton and Hove City	2,524
Bristol	2,604
Bromley	1,249
Buckinghamshire	2,090
Bury	535
Calderdale	1,183
Cambridgeshire	2,948
Camden	1,341
Central and Eastern Cheshire	949
Central Lancashire	1,481
City and Hackney Teaching	1,673
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	3,211
County Durham	1,711
Coventry Teaching	2,201
Croydon	2,812
Cumbria Teaching	1,689
Darlington	414
Derby City	839
Derbyshire County	2,194
Devon	3,269
Doncaster	1,498
Dorset	1,947
Dudley	1,063
Ealing	1,252
East Lancashire Teaching	938
East Riding of Yorkshire	795
East Sussex Downs and Weald	2,054
Eastern and Coastal Kent	3,307
Enfield	1,393
Gateshead	616
Gloucestershire	2,593
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	982
Greenwich Teaching	1,863
Halton and St. Helens	1,232
Hammersmith and Fulham	939
Hampshire	4,299
Haringey Teaching	1,107
Harrow	1,007
Hartlepool	438
Hastings and Rother	881
Havering	911
Heart of Birmingham	2,233
Herefordshire	750
Hertfordshire	4,791
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	1,113
Hillingdon	1,325
Hounslow	646
Hull Teaching	721
Isle of Wight NHS	470
Islington	1,588
Kensington and Chelsea	590
Kingston	736
Kirklees	2,278
Knowsley	541
Lambeth	2,887
Leeds	5,600
Leicester City	2,064
Leicestershire County and Rutland	3,082
Lewisham	1,783
Lincolnshire	3,273
Liverpool	2,006
Luton	865
Manchester	4,456
Medway	1,011
Mid Essex	1,667
Middlesbrough	550
Milton Keynes	1,361
Newcastle	954
Newham	2,177
Norfolk	5,486
North East Essex	1,911
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1,051
North Lancashire Teaching	1,059
North Lincolnshire	896
North Somerset	1,036
North Staffordshire	707
North Tyneside	405
North Yorkshire and York	3,616

PCT	Number of prescription items
Northamptonshire Teaching	4,015
Northumberland Care Trust	958
Nottingham City	1,635
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	2,007
Oldham	763
Oxfordshire	3,552
Peterborough	960
Plymouth Teaching	2,071
Portsmouth City Teaching	1,023
Redbridge	1,127
Redcar and Cleveland	621
Richmond and Twickenham	626
Rotherham	780
Salford	1,034
Sandwell	1,230
Sefton	649
Sheffield	3,246
Shropshire County	1,472
Solihull	716
Somerset	2,894
South Birmingham	2,940
Per South East Essex	1,225
South Gloucestershire	1,449
South Staffordshire	2,515
South Tyneside	393
South West Essex	1,915
Southampton City	961
Southwark	1,607
Stockport	1,303
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	562
Stoke on Trent	749
Suffolk	2,966
Sunderland Teaching	676
Surrey	3,607
Sutton and Merton	1,290
Swindon	913
Tameside and Glossop	1,451
Telford and Wrekin	1,238
Torbay Care Trust	819
Tower Hamlets	1,641
Trafford	440
Wakefield District	1,836
Walsall Teaching	2,502
Waltham Forest	1,262
Wandsworth Teaching	1,546
Warrington	460
Warwickshire	1,437
West Essex	1,205
West Kent	2,591
West Sussex	3,466
Western Cheshire	736
Westminster	1,046
Wiltshire	2,838
Wirral	1,232
Wolverhampton City	912
Worcestershire	2,120
Unidentified	2,884
Total England	251,226

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60492]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has revoked the following regulations from 1 March to 31 May 2011:

The Walsall Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 1990 by The Walsall Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011—SI Number 2011/791; and

The Hull and Goole Port Health Authority Order 1982 by The Hull and Goole Port Health Authority Order 2011—SI Number 2011/939.

The regulations change names and functions. Neither regulation has any monetary impact.

Dermatology

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of NHS dermatologists; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of dermatologist vacancies. [61022]

Mr Simon Burns: The annual NHS Workforce Census shows that at 30 September 2010 there were 853 full-time equivalent dermatology staff. Of this number, there were 462 full-time equivalent dermatology consultants.

The latest Vacancy Survey at 31 March 2010 showed that there were 10 dermatology vacancies which had been advertised for three months or longer and the vacancy rate was 2.2%.

Workforce planning is a matter for local national health service organisations. They are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the workforce to meet those needs.

The Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI) is the new national authority on workforce planning and development providing advice and information to the NHS and social care system. It supports long-term and strategic scenario planning for the whole health and social care workforce, based on research, evidence and analysis and will look to build strong leadership and capability in workforce planning.

The CfWI has carried out a piece of work commissioned by the Department to analyse and inform on the numbers of doctors going into medical specialty training following on from foundation training. The Dermatology summary sheet is available at:

www.cfwi.org.uk/intelligence/cfwi-medical-summary-sheets/recommendation-for-dermatology-training-2011

Diabetes: Children

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to produce a nationwide schools information scheme to raise awareness of diabetes among South Asian children. [57301]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The Department's commitment to cut bureaucracy and burdens on the frontline has implications for how we communicate with key audiences. Sending blanket

communications on issues such as medical conditions awareness is not an effective way to reach schools. Direct communications to schools are restricted to very high priority, or key operational, information. The DfE website is now our primary mode of communicating with schools. The relevant information on this issue can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/pastoralcare/health/b0013771/managing-medicines-in-schools

However, schools are under a legal duty to promote the well-being of their pupils. They are key settings for improving the health of children and young people. Good schools will be active promoters of good health in childhood and adolescence, including focussing on healthy eating, increasing physical activity and the provision of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. Teachers may choose to explore awareness of medical conditions and their causes as part of PSHE education.

We encourage other organisations, such as employer and staff associations and charities such as Diabetes UK, to play their part in supporting schools and parents and in sharing good practice, including raising awareness among schools of diabetes among South Asian children.

Diamorphine: Prices

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS pays per gram for diamorphine; and if his Department has made an assessment of the price paid by other European health services. [61010]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information on the basis of price per gram of diamorphine. We have made no assessment of the price paid by our European counterparts.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60694]

Anne Milton: The stock of European Union legislation in force is set out in the Eur-Lex database:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would be of disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation were currently the responsibility of the Department of Health or its predecessor Departments.

Two directives have been published in the Official Journal since 1 April 2010, for which my Department is responsible:

Directive 2010/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation. Member states shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 27 August 2012.

Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. Member states shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 25 October 2013.

We have not included directives that are the responsibility of other Departments, but are related to the health sector.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has any plans to take steps in relation to internet sites charging a fee for European health insurance cards. [60390]

Anne Milton: The Department provides European Health Insurance Cards free of charge. In August 2010, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), in consultation with the Department, took action against five internet sites that were charging for checking applications for the European Health Insurance Card and referring them to the NHS Business Services Authority, who process applications on behalf of the Department. The Department has reported any new internet sites that it is aware of to the OFT, and is exploring further options to tackle this issue.

Home Care Services: Standards

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require local authorities to maintain standards of provision of home care for those with critical or substantial needs; [60746]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the effect of the comprehensive spending review on the provision of home care services. [60747]

Paul Burstow: Local authorities are responsible for determining their own eligibility for adult social care in line with statutory guidance, issued by the Department in February 2010, "Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: a whole system approach to eligibility for social care—guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care, England 2010". A copy has already been placed in the Library.

In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, the Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of adult social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes. However, it is for local authorities to manage their budgets with regard to local needs and priorities.

Ministers have set out their ambition to publish a White Paper to reform adult social care, followed by legislation. The White Paper will build on the "Vision for adult social care: Capable communities and active citizens", which was published in November 2010. It will also set out the Government's response to the recommendations of the Law Commission, published in May 2011, to modernise the social care statute and the recommendations of the independent Commission on the Funding of Care and Support on how to assure a fair, affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support, which will be published in July 2011.

Housing: Vulnerable Adults

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that institutions where vulnerable people are living will be inspected more regularly; [60471]

(2) what plans he has to enable the Care Quality Commission to make more frequent and unannounced inspections of care homes. [60472]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. It is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for assessing whether providers are meeting the registration requirements regulations (made under the The Health and Social Care Act 2008, and published its "Guidance About Compliance" and supporting documentation in March 2010.

The 2008 Act registration system does not set any prescribed inspection frequencies in regulations. Instead, the CQC determines the appropriate inspection frequency based on its assessment of risk.

Ketamine

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to publicise the dangers of recreational use of the drug ketamine. [60358]

Anne Milton: FRANK, the Government's drugs information and advice service, includes information on the risks of the recreational use of ketamine. The Department obtains expert medical advice to ensure that the information is accurate.

Mansell Report

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the Mansell Report on people with complex needs. [60482]

Paul Burstow: A written ministerial statement on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 15-16WS, announced the Government's response to Professor Mansell's report, "Raising our Sights: Services for Adults with Profound Intellectual and Multiple Disabilities". We accept and support the conclusions of the report, which was commissioned by the Department.

The elements of good service and good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which the Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities, and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

I announced on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 13-15WS, that I have asked officials to draw together the key lessons from the reviews being undertaken by the Care Quality Commission, the national health service and safeguarding boards into the events at Winterbourne View hospital. The recommendations of the Mansell report will be addressed within that work and Professor Mansell is assisting the Department in the examination of the issues.

Mental Health Services

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* levels of demand for services for people with mental health problems and *(b)* the capacity of existing services to meet such demand; [61157]

(2) what plans he has for the recruitment and training of therapists in the treatment of people with mental health problems; [61158]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* psychiatric treatment, *(b)* cognitive behavioural therapy and *(c)* prescription drugs for people with mental health problems. [61159]

Paul Burstow: It is for the local national health service to assess the needs of their populations and to plan how best to meet them. It is also for the local NHS to make sure that the capacity to do so effectively is available.

The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is committed to expanding the IAPT workforce by 2,400 therapists to work in primary care over the next three years. This is in addition to the 3,660 new therapists that have been recruited and trained since the programme's inspection in 2008-09.

There has been no recent specific assessment of the type described. However, all of these treatments are well established as being effective in a variety of different clinical settings for a range of different mental health problems. It is important that a variety of treatment options are available to clinicians, who are best placed to decide on the most appropriate treatment, or combination of treatments, on a case by case basis. Their decisions are informed by guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts Monitor had identified as unlikely to achieve Foundation Trust status on the most recent date for which figures are available; what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* PFI-related debt of each trust is; and what the cost of servicing the (i) capital and (ii) PFI-related debt of each trust was in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [60473]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor is an independent organisation charged with the authorisation of foundation trusts (FT) which are assessed by them following a strategic health authority (SHA) and Department of Health process, culminating in the Secretary of State's approval to proceed if appropriate. Monitor does not identify in advance those organisations who are unlikely to achieve FT status; this is the role of SHAs and the Department.

Each national health service trust submitted a draft Tripartite Formal Agreement to the Department. The draft Tripartite Formal Agreement sets out the challenges each NHS trust faces in achieving FT status. The Tripartite Formal Agreements will be signed by the NHS trust, SHA and the Department.

A national review is under way in 22 NHS trusts to look at the costs associated with the private finance initiative schemes and the impact this has on the long-term financial sustainability of these organisations and their ability to achieve FT status. This will inform if and what support might be needed. A list of the 22 NHS trusts is provided as follows:

Strategic Health Authority	*NHS Trust*
Yorks and Humber Strategic Health Authority	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Strategic Health Authority	*NHS Trust*
North West Strategic Health Authority	North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust
	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
	Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust
	Wye Valley NHS Trust
East of England Strategic Health Authority	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
London Strategic Health Authority	Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
	Barts and the London NHS Trust
	North Middlesex NHS Trust
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
	South London Healthcare NHS Trust
	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
South Central Strategic Health Authority	Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust (+ Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust)
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
South West Strategic Health Authority	North Bristol NHS Trust

Information on the annual unitary payments made under every signed hospital private finance initiative contract over the lifetime of the contract can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

The figures are the latest estimates collected from each Department for the March 2011 Budget report. The unitary payment is paid by the NHS body to the private sector counterparty to the contract and covers the capital costs (repayment of principal and financing charges), building maintenance and in many cases the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security.

The HM Treasury list includes all the schemes identified for this national review, apart from two which have not yet signed contracts. The two schemes that have yet to sign the contracts are Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust. This is due to the trusts being either at an earlier stage of completing their Business Case approval process or still in the procurement process.

NHS Trusts

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* have entered into and *(b)* are in discussions about entering into formal tripartite agreements; and in each case whether the trust in question has indicated whether its commitment under the private finance initiative is a contributory factor in its decision to seek such an agreement. [60474]

Mr Simon Burns: The remaining national health service trusts are working on Tripartite Formal Agreements with their strategic health authorities and the Department of Health. This work is required for all trusts as part of the application process, regardless of whether they have a private finance initiative (PFI) or not. When it has been finalised the agreement will be signed by all parties and the NHS trust will publish the agreement. The agreement will identify the issues the trust faces and the actions that will establish them as sustainable providers of high quality health care services. These developments will enable them to meet the demanding requirements needed to achieve foundation status. A list of the remaining NHS trusts has been placed in the Library for information.

A national review is under way in 22 NHS trusts to look at the costs associated with PFI schemes and the impact this has on the long-term financial sustainability of these organisations and their ability to achieve foundation trust status. This will inform if and what support might be needed. The 22 trusts are:

Strategic Health Authority	*NHS Trust*
Yorks and Humber Strategic Health Authority	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
North West Strategic Health Authority	North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust
	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
	Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust
	Wye Valley NHS Trust
East of England Strategic Health Authority	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
London Strategic Health Authority	Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
	Barts and the London NHS Trust
	North Middlesex NHS Trust
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
	South London Healthcare NHS Trust
	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Strategic Health Authority	*NHS Trust*
South Central Strategic Health Authority	Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust (plus Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust)
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
South West Strategic Health Authority	North Bristol NHS Trust

Information on the annual unitary payments made under every signed hospital PFI contract over the lifetime of the contract can be found on the HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

These are the latest estimates collected from each Department for the March 2011 Budget Report. The unitary payment is paid by the NHS body to the private sector counterparty to the contract and covers the capital costs (repayment of principal and financing charges), building maintenance and in many cases the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security.

The HM Treasury list includes all the schemes identified for this national review, apart from two which have not yet signed contracts (i.e. they are at earlier stage of completing the business case approval process or still in procurement) and therefore do not yet have an agreed or finalised unitary payment. The schemes are Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have indicated to their respective strategic health authorities that *(a)* the cost of meeting their obligations under the private finance initiative would be difficult to achieve without structural change and *(b)* they are unlikely to achieve Foundation Trust status with their current structure. [60513]

Mr Simon Burns: A national review is under way in 22 national health service trusts to look at the costs associated with private finance initiative (PFI) schemes and the impact this has on the long-term financial sustainability of these organisations and their ability to achieve foundation trust status. This will inform if and what support might be needed. The 22 trusts are:

Strategic Health Authority	*Trusts*
Yorks and Humber Strategic Health Authority	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
North West Strategic Health Authority	North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust
	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
	Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
	University Hospital of North Staffordshire Hospital NHS Trust
	Wye Valley NHS Trust
East of England Strategic Health Authority	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust
London Strategic Health Authority	Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
	Barts and the London NHS Trust
	North Middlesex NHS Trust
	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
	South London Healthcare NHS Trust
	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
South Central Strategic Health Authority	Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust (plus Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust)
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
South West Strategic Health Authority	North Bristol NHS Trust

Information on the annual unitary payments made under every signed hospital PFI contract over the lifetime of the contract can be found on the Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

These are the latest estimates collected from each Department for the March 2011 Budget report. The unitary payment is paid by the NHS body to the private sector counterparty to the contract and covers the capital costs (repayment of principal and financing charges), building maintenance and in many cases the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security.

The Treasury list includes all the schemes identified for this national review, apart from two which have not yet signed contracts (ie they are at earlier stage of completing the business case approval process or still in procurement) and therefore do not yet have an agreed or finalised unitary payment. The schemes are Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust and Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust.

All the remaining NHS trusts are currently working on tripartite formal agreements with their strategic health authorities and the Department of Health. This work includes determining where an NHS trust may not be sustainable in their current organisational form and where actions will be taken to support the achievement of foundation trust status. Once finalised, these agreements will be published locally and will detail the actions that will be taken to support all the remaining NHS trusts to become established as sustainable providers of quality healthcare services either in their current organisational structure or as part of another foundation trust.

Perinatal Mortality

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many research studies into stillbirth his Department has commissioned from research councils in each of the last 10 years. [60463]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned any research studies from research councils into stillbirth in the last 10 years.

Government investment in health research in England is made principally by the Department of Health, through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, through the Medical Research Council (MRC).

In 2008-09 (the most recent year for which figures are currently available) the MRC spent £1.1 million on research related to stillbirth. In addition, the MRC also funds several large cohort studies which include a component of research into stillbirth and supports a large portfolio of underpinning reproductive medicine and paediatric research, much of which may be relevant.

The Department has funded a range of research relevant to stillbirth. For example, the Department's Policy Research programme has funded a Policy Research Unit in Maternal Health and Care at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford. Research themes include pregnancy loss, perinatal morbidity, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

Furthermore, the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre has an ongoing programme of research on women's health. A major focus of this research is understanding the determinants of stillbirth risk and using this understanding to improve clinical care of pregnant women.

Public Health

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to establish professional regulation for public health specialists. [61027]

Anne Milton: Public health specialists with a medical or dental background are regulated under the statutory regulatory frameworks of the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council respectively. United Kingdom Public Health Register regulates non-medically or non-dentally qualified specialists on a voluntary basis.

The Government agree there should be a system of registration or regulation for non-medical public health consultants that is proportionate to the risk that they pose to the public. The consultation on the Public Health White Paper and the Future Forum have identified a number of mechanisms through which this might be achieved. We will work with the profession and employers over the coming months and bring forward proposals later this year.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to establish an independent Director of Public Health. [61029]

Anne Milton: The Government have responded to the Future Forum report and accepted all of the core recommendations. Amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill will be tabled in due course.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on (i) levels of take-home pay and (ii) the incentive to work of charging for social care services. [61162]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not undertaken any research in this area.

The Government believe urgent reform of the social care funding system is needed. The Commission on the Funding of Care and Support was established in July 2010 and will make recommendations to the Government on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system for care and support, which will ensure a fair partnership between the state and the individual, and take into account the vital role of families and carers. The Commission is expected to report in July 2011.

Southern Cross Healthcare

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that Southern Cross continues in operation. [61031]

Paul Burstow: The Government have made it very clear that the welfare of residents living in Southern Cross homes is paramount. We appreciate that recent events and media speculation has caused concern to residents in Southern Cross care homes and their relatives and families.

It is for Southern Cross, its landlords and those with an interest in the business to put in place a plan that stabilises the business and ensures operational continuity of the company's care homes. That work is ongoing and we must let it continue.

We consider the issue should be fully capable of resolution by the commercial sector. The Government's principal concern is for the safety and well-being of the residents of care homes that might be affected. We have undertaken to ensure they are protected. Whatever happens, no resident will find themselves homeless or without care. The Government will not stand by and let that happen.

Departmental officials have been in frequent contact with Southern Cross's senior management over the last three months and that will continue. We are engaged with the company, the landlords and lenders and are monitoring the situation very closely.

The Government are acting to ensure that all parties involved are working towards a swift resolution with a comprehensive plan for the future, which must have at its heart the welfare of residents.

The Government are also working closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social services, the Local Government Association, local authorities and the Care Quality Commission to ensure that robust local arrangements are in place to address the consequences in the event that the company's restructuring plan fails to put the business on a stable footing.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure the adequacy of standards of care in the Southern Cross care homes issued with improvement orders by the Care Quality Commission following the resolution of the present financial situation of the company; [61323]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to monitor the compliance with statutory obligations of staffing ratios in care homes operated by Southern Cross. [61325]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator for health and adult social care in England. Providers registered with the CQC must comply with 16 safety and quality requirements set out in regulations made under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. These 16 requirements include a requirement on staffing. This requires the registered provider to take appropriate steps to ensure that at all times there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified, skilled and experienced persons employed to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of service users. The regulations apply to providers of a wide range of services and do not specify staffing ratios.

The CQC is responsible for assuring compliance with the regulations. The CQC undertakes reviews of compliance with the regulations and where it finds non-compliance, the CQC has powers to take enforcement action. The CQC may issue improvement or compliance actions and the provider is required to send a report to the CQC setting out the action it is taking to achieve or maintain compliance. The CQC may also take enforcement action. The CQC may carry out follow-up reviews to ensure that the actions have been undertaken to achieve compliance.

The CQC will take the necessary steps to assure itself that Southern Cross continues to comply with the requirement to ensure that adequate staffing is in place at all times and that its homes also continue to comply with the other 15 safety and quality requirements. The CQC is aware of Southern Cross's proposals to save money through staff cuts and the risk that these cuts may directly affect the safety and quality of services. The CQC's primary concern is always to ensure the health, safety and welfare of people who use services. Though the CQC's responsive system of compliance monitoring, where there is any indication of increased risk of non-compliance with the registration requirements, the CQC is following up through additional planned or responsive reviews to check compliance. Where the CQC finds non compliance it will act swiftly requiring improvements to be made within a specified time period. The CQC has powers to take strong enforcement action should the provider fail to make the necessary improvements.

The Department is working closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association, local authorities and the CQC to ensure that contingency plans are in place which will allow for the continuation of care for residents in Southern Cross homes under any eventuality. There are frequent discussions between the parties involved.

Telemedicine

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to utilise mobile application technologies in the delivery of health services to the public. [60878]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is looking at a number of initiatives to make better use of mobile application technologies to deliver health services to the public and to promote and support the delivery of quality, innovation, productivity and prevention across community services.

The Government's 2010 White Paper consultation document—"Liberating the NHS: An Information Revolution"—sought views on our proposals for an information revolution for health and adult social care in England, to transform the way information is accessed, collected, analysed and used.

The consultation closed on 14 January 2011 and responses are now being analysed, together with further views expressed as part of the recent listening exercise. We have been keen to listen and will use the responses to the consultation and also from the listening exercise to develop a detailed information strategy that will highlight how opening up information supports improvements in care.

Tuberculosis: Health Services

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. [60459]

Anne Milton: The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have published guidance to support the national health service in commissioning and providing effective services to prevent, diagnose and treat tuberculosis (TB).

In addition, the Department is funding TB Alert to raise awareness among groups at risk of TB and among primary care workers.

We expect NHS organisations and their partners to ensure early detection, treatment completion and co-ordinated action to prevent and control TB.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advisory Services: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on ensuring a sufficient level of funding for advice services in England. [60478]

Mr Davey: As I indicated during Business, Innovation and Skills First Order questions on 31 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 502, I have had discussions with the Minister for Civil Society, the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, the hon. Member for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner (Mr Hurd) on the future of the Citizens Advice Service. I have also discussed the future funding of advice services in England with other Ministers as the Citizens Advice Service is of course important to a number of Government Departments, including BIS.

Business: Young People

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to provide incentives to businesses to employ staff directly from school. [58839]

Mr Hayes: Businesses should be free to recruit whoever is best suited to their requirements, whether that is a school leaver or someone more experienced.

Nevertheless, Government are encouraging employers to offer more work experience, internships and apprenticeships opportunities to young people, including through our Every Business Commits initiative. We are also taking action to raise attainment and ensure young people have the skills and qualifications that are attractive to employers, including through quality vocational education and training.

As part of the Government's review of 16-19 funding, and in light of research into employer investment we are considering whether payments to employers can be an effective way to encourage them to take on apprentices, but we must make sure that any scheme to introduce such payments will deliver the right outcomes and offer value for money.

Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the rate of productivity growth for *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* all UK businesses in each year since 2005. [61095]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the rate of productivity growth for (a) small and medium-sized enterprises and (b) all UK businesses in each year since 2005 (61095).

Quarterly labour productivity statistics are available from the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7476

Whole economy output per worker is our headline labour productivity statistic which includes all UK businesses, please refer to Table 1 below.

Productivity estimates for small and medium-sized enterprises are not published by the ONS.

Table 1: Whole economy headline labour productivity 2005-10, annual index and growth rate, United Kingdom

	Output per worker	
Period	*Index (2006=100)*	*Growth*
2005	98.1	1.4
2006	100.0	2.0
2007	102.1	2.1
2008	101.3	-0.8
2009	98.1	-3.2
2010	99.2	1.2

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of productivity of new businesses in each year since 2005. [61109]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the level of productivity for new businesses in each year since 2005 (61109).

This information is not available. Productivity estimates for new businesses are not published by the ONS.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people who indicated to his Department that they wished to start a business in the most recent period for which figures are available also indicated that they had experienced multiple barriers to start-up. [61111]

Mr Prisk: BIS do not have data to estimate the number and proportion of people who indicated to the Department that they wanted to start a business who also indicated that they had experienced multiple barriers to start-up.

However, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor shows that in 2010, 7.3% of the adult population in the UK were expecting to start up a business within the next three years. See the following website for more information:

http://www.gemconsortium.org/files.aspx?Ca_ID=107

In addition, the World Bank provides an annual assessment of the 'ease of starting-up a business' in over 180 countries. The latest report for 2010 shows that the UK ranks third in the G7 on this measure, see the following website for more information:

http://www.doingbusiness.org/rankings

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist UK companies in carrying out due diligence checks on agents or businesses in overseas markets. [61126]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is the Government Department that helps UK-based businesses succeed in the global economy and assists overseas companies to bring their high quality investment to the UK.

The role of UKTI teams overseas is to refer due diligence cases to appropriately qualified local legal firms in any market where such a services is requested.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on his review of employment law. [60733]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58650]

Mr Davey: The Department has no contracts with Crown Relocations.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of correspondence received by his Department was replied to *(a)* within his Department's deadline for the issuing of responses to correspondents, *(b)* less than five days after its deadline, *(c)* between five and 10 days after its deadline and *(d)* more than 10 days after its deadline in each month since 12 May 2010. [60514]

Mr Davey: The proportion of correspondence received by the Department, replied to within the Department's deadline, for responses to correspondents in each month since 12 May 2010 was:

	Percentage
May 2010	91
June 2010	92
July 2010	58
August 2010	63
September 2010	65
October 2010	71
November 2010	72
December 2010	63
January 2011	83
February 2011	71
March 2011	71
April 2011	82
May 2011	83

I regret that the further information requested is not available in the form requested and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Meetings

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on meeting hon. Members who request a meeting with him or his Ministers; and if he will provide details of any such request that he has declined since 12 May 2010. [60477]

Mr Davey: All meeting requests are treated on a case-by-case basis. Responses are based on the nature of the issues involved and their relation to BIS ministerial responsibilities.

Departmental Rail Travel

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on first-class train travel in 2009-10. [60947]

Mr Davey: The Department spent £387,949 on first-class rail travel in 2009/10.

For information, the equivalent figure in 2010/11 was £171,725 and this reflected a significant reduction in first class travel that was mandated across the Department from June 2010 onwards as part of a range of cost saving measures.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60394]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* Between 1 March and 31 May 2011, BIS Ministers made 18 regulations by statutory instrument (SI). The 18 SIs include measures to simplify, update and modernise the regulatory frameworks within the Department's responsibility. For instance:

The Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 amends the Education (Student Loans) (Repayment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/470) to ensure that the student loan repayment system remains aligned with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) self assessment and pay as you earn (PAYE) processes which are used to collect student loans.

The Export Control (Libya) Order 2011 updated export controls in the light of developments in Libya

The Insolvency (Amendment) Rules 2011 modernise and simplify procedures to enable insolvency cases to be administered more efficiently and facilitate the use of electronic communications between those involved in the insolvency process, including within the Royal Courts of Justice. No costs are expected with this measure, but there will be a benefit of £0.2 million per year as certain debtors previously unable to access Debt Relief Orders (DRO) will now be able to access debt relief.

The Insolvency Proceedings (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2011 increases the amount of the deposit payable on presenting a petition for bankruptcy or winding up. This is to ensure that those who benefit from the insolvency regime rather than the taxpayer should fund the cost. There is an economic transfer of £4.7 million between debtors and taxpayers. This is the only one of the 18 measures to impose a significant cost.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60483]

Mr Davey: On 21 March my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Further Education Skills and Lifelong Learning made the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Order 2010 (Amendment) Order 2011. This revoked the extension to the right to request time to train to small and medium-sized enterprises potentially saving businesses approximately £350 million a year.

In addition, the Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of children of 17 years of age were revoked by statutory instruments on 30 March before they were due to come into force on 6 April. Had they come into force, the costs to business

would have been approximately £2 million a year; however these would have been offset by equivalent annual benefits to business.

Many of the other regulations will also have updated existing regulations so as to avoid unnecessary burdens on business.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the organogram of his Department to the sub-team level. [60479]

Mr Davey: As part of the Government's Transparency Agenda, BIS has produced a Departmental organogram which identifies staff at team level. These are published data and can be viewed at the following address:

http://reference.data.gov.uk/gov-structure/organogram/?dept=bis&post=SCS4-09

Departmental Written Questions

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of written parliamentary questions for written answer his Department responded to *(a)* on the date for answer, *(b)* less than five days after the date for answer, *(c)* between five and 10 days after the date for answer and *(d)* more than 10 days after the date for answer in each month since 12 May 2010. [60515]

Mr Davey: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member and ordinary questions within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will usually be preferable to provide an answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer.

Figures are recorded in the following format:

Named day parliamentary questions

Month due for answer	Total tabled	On time		Total late		Of which more than 10 days late	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
May 2010	5	0	0	[1]5	100	0	0
June 2010	86	65	76	21	24	1	1
July 2010	95	71	75	24	25	0	0
September 2010	38	32	84	[2]6	16	0	0
October 2010	62	47	76	15	24	0	0
November 2010	162	110	68	52	32	4	3
December 2010	106	72	68	34	32	7	6
January 2011	112	93	83	18	16	1	1
February 2011	120	91	76	29	24	1	1
March 2011	142	77	54	65	46	0	0
April 2011	68	53	78	15	22	2	3
May 2011	67	32	48	35	52	4	6

[1] All five PQs received a substantive reply within two sitting days of the date requested by the Member.
[2] All six PQs received an answer the next sitting.

Ordinary parliamentary written questions

Month due for answer	Total tabled	On time (within 5 sitting days)		Total late		Of which more than 10 days late	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
June 2010	316	230	73	86	27	13	4
July 2010	310	222	72	88	28	10	3
September 2010	227	161	71	66	29	21	9
October 2010	223	184	83	39	17	11	5
November 2010	339	248	73	91	27	13	4
December 2010	234	177	76	57	24	5	2
January 2011	200	164	82	36	18	3	2
February 2011	233	200	86	33	14	1	0
March 2011	443	286	65	157	35	13	3
April 2011	116	94	81	22	19	0	0
May 2011	225	143	64	82	36	7	3

The figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

English Language: Education

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish the assessment of proposed funding changes for English for Speakers of Other Languages learners. [59958]

Mr Hayes: An assessment of how the changes announced in "Skills for Sustainable Growth" may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages learners is currently being carried out by this Department. I expect to be able to publish this before the summer recess.

Enterprise Promotion

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the operation of *(a)* the Enterprise Promotion Fund, *(b)* the Phoenix Development Fund, *(c)* community development finance and *(d)* city growth strategies. [61101]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made no recent assessment of the operation of the Enterprise Promotion Fund, the Phoenix Development Fund or City Growth Strategies. These programmes were evaluated between 2003-06. BIS published an Evaluation of Community Development Institutions (CDFIs) on 15 March 2010. An action-orientated summary for the sector was published in June 2010.

Further information can be found at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/publications

Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the environmental, social and human rights guidelines set out in the OECD's Common Approaches are to apply to *(a)* each new product and scheme being developed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in line with the Government's Trade and Investment for Growth White Paper and *(b)* each ultimate beneficiary of sales and projects arising from each such product or scheme. [60250]

Mr Davey: I take the "environmental, social and human rights guidelines set out in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Common Approaches" to be the standards which should be used in an environmental review carried out pursuant to the Common Approaches. The guidelines apply, or do not apply, as the case may be, to individual projects. The Common Approaches contain within them a number of tests as to whether the guidelines should apply. Some are such that all transactions which the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) carries out within the terms of a particular scheme will fall outside the applicability of the guidelines. In other cases the individual terms of projects will have to be considered.

Examples of schemes under which all transactions would fall outside the scope of the Common Approaches are those projects which benefit from official supported export credit with a repayment term of less than two years. This would include ECGD's new export working capital and foreign exchange credit support products.

There is a lack of clarity in the Common Approaches as to whether support given pursuant to a bond support scheme such as ECGD's new scheme is capable of falling within the definition of "officially supported export credits with a repayment term of two years or more". ECGD is treating applications for such support as within the definition quoted above if the bond for which support is sought has a tenor of two years or more. There will be further questions as to whether the incidents of any particular project for which bond support is requested mean that it is a project to which the guidelines should apply.

Exports: Weapons

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what licences have been granted for the export of weapons or military hardware to the Libyan government since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [58049]

Mr Prisk: Since May 2010 the following licences have been granted for the export of weapons and military hardware to the Government of Libya:

	Number
Standard Individual Export Licences (SIELs) for permanent export	8
SIELs for temporary export	5
Open Individual Export Licence	1

All licences for the export of military or security equipment to the Libyan Government which were still valid when the conflict began have since been revoked.

Export Credit Guarantees: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 433W, on the Export Credits Guarantee Department: arms trade, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Export and Investment Guarantees Act 1991 to prohibit support for fossil fuels from the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [60992]

Mr Davey: The Government have no plans to introduce legislation to change the existing statute of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Higher Education: Science

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time first degree entrants studying *(a)* medicine and dentistry, *(b)* subjects allied to medicine, *(c)* biological sciences, *(d)* physical sciences, *(e)* mathematical sciences, *(f)* computer science, *(g)* engineering and technology, *(h)* architecture, building and planning, *(i)* social studies, *(j)* law, *(k)* business and administrative studies, *(l)* mass communications, *(m)* historical and philosophical studies, *(n)* creative arts and design and *(o)* all subjects at higher education institutions there were in each year from 2002-03 to 2009-10 by state school marker. [59513]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to UK higher education institutions who had previously attended state schools are shown by subject area in the following table. The state school marker does not include first degree entrants who had previously attended further education colleges, including sixth form colleges: the categories for known previous education institution are state school, further education college, independent school and higher education institution.

Information is taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and is provided for the academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants, who had previously attended state schools, by subject area: UK higher education institutions[1] academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
Subject area	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*
Medicine and dentistry	6,425	3,040	7,370	3,325	7,690	3,435	7,530	3,585
Subjects allied to medicine	15,030	6,515	16,575	6,980	19,650	8,145	21,045	9,435
Biological sciences	25,940	14,385	27,305	14,955	28,880	15,310	30,465	16,810
Veterinary science	640	320	660	325	670	345	690	395
Agriculture and related subjects	1,640	825	1,920	885	1,920	885	2,000	1,020
Physical sciences	12,860	7,995	12,850	8,040	13,120	7,925	14,015	8,715
Mathematical sciences	4,875	2,825	4,970	2,990	5,375	3,320	5,560	3,580
Computer science	18,140	8,405	16,350	7,410	14,770	6,475	13,355	6,220
Engineering and technology	14,710	7,735	14,405	7,740	15,225	7,990	15,060	8,160
Architecture, building and planning	4,240	2,195	5,075	2,625	5,715	3,045	6,375	3,575
Social studies	23,660	12,215	24,875	12,350	27,240	13,365	27,605	13,815
Law	12,215	6,425	13,050	6,840	13,950	7,110	13,535	7,090
Business and administrative studies	30,255	16,055	29,960	15,710	31,310	16,175	31,290	16,675
Mass communications and documentation	8,510	4,255	8,750	4,265	9,325	4,625	9,900	5,250
Languages	19,245	10,410	19,140	10,210	20,035	10,665	20,430	11,330
Historical and philosophical studies	13,570	7,105	14,260	7,425	14,525	7,680	15,540	8,570
Creative arts and design	25,375	7,925	25,865	8,255	30,025	8,990	32,910	10,650
Education	9,255	4,630	9,845	5,080	11,485	5,880	11,715	6,365
Combined	1,845	1,000	2,640	1,285	1,630	750	1,550	680
Total	248,445	124,255	255,860	126,695	272,555	132,120	280,565	141,910

	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
Subject area	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*	*No. with known previous institution information*	*Of which: State school*
Medicine and dentistry	7,400	3,650	7,900	3,910	8,200	4,175	8,325	4,070
Subjects allied to medicine	20,205	9,165	20,955	9,185	24,265	10,775	27,460	11,040
Biological sciences	30,495	16,520	31,990	17,075	35,590	18,440	38,215	20,105
Veterinary science	715	370	780	400	765	425	760	425
Agriculture and related subjects	1,875	910	1,965	865	2,175	1,065	2,495	1,130
Physical sciences	13,915	8,765	14,635	8,875	15,805	9,500	16,520	9,785
Mathematical sciences	5,615	3,695	6,140	4,020	7,020	4,520	7,440	4,935
Computer science	13,045	5,935	12,585	5,550	14,125	6,235	15,570	6,660
Engineering and technology	14,700	7,920	15,765	8,130	17,920	9,210	19,440	10,030
Architecture, building and planning	6,560	3,520	6,895	3,445	8,080	4,040	7,930	3,720
Social studies	26,485	13,125	28,205	13,340	32,560	15,420	33,615	16,100
Law	13,085	6,895	13,885	7,010	15,515	7,965	15,570	8,045
Business and administrative studies	30,970	16,215	31,960	16,260	37,655	18,620	39,550	19,535

Subject area	2006/07 No. with known previous institution information	2006/07 Of which: State school	2007/08 No. with known previous institution information	2007/08 Of which: State school	2008/09 No. with known previous institution information	2008/09 Of which: State school	2009/10 No. with known previous institution information	2009/10 Of which: State school
Mass communications and documentation	9,440	4,865	9,750	4,745	11,280	5,500	11,935	5,940
Languages	19,560	11,030	20,250	11,065	22,180	12,160	22,585	12,455
Historical and philosophical studies	14,635	8,145	14,885	8,045	16,335	8,990	16,895	9,290
Creative arts and design	31,565	10,060	34,240	10,755	38,215	12,390	40,915	13,375
Education	11,940	6,345	12,650	6,225	14,540	7,090	15,665	7,660
Combined	1,180	540	1,385	650	1,420	680	1,315	630
Total	273,380	137,680	286,820	139,545	323,650	157,205	342,195	164,920

[1] Excludes the Open University: there were no UK-domiciled full-time first degree entrants to the Open University between 2002/03 and 2009/10

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Insolvency Act 1986

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of revising section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to include on-sellers of telecoms services and equipment in addition to direct suppliers; [60850]

(2) if he will assess the merits of revising section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to prevent suppliers requiring payments on insolvency which would reduce the *(a)* likelihood of a rescue and *(b)* dividends to creditors; [60851]

(3) if he will assess the merits of revising section 233 of the Insolvency Act 1986 to include information technology services, computer software and accounting software as essential suppliers for the purposes of reflecting the use of modern technology in business operations; and if he will make a statement. [60852]

Mr Davey: We announced in May that we would discuss with interested parties the issue of termination clauses in the context of further consideration of a possible new restructuring moratorium. Officials are currently engaged in that process. Any move to include other essential supplies in section 233 would have implications for the suppliers themselves and would need to be carefully considered in this context.

Intellectual Property

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to encourage non-EU members of the World Trade Organisation to ratify the amendments to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights to make importation of drugs easier and cheaper. [60589]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The UK will continue to make clear its support for the Doha Declaration on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) and public health, which agreed that:

"The TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health."

We also support the proposed amendment to TRIPS which allows developing countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector to use a compulsory licence to import essential medicines.

At the World Trade Organisation the EU, with the UK's support, continues to support calls on countries to ratify this amendment. Members are regularly reminded of their commitment at the WTO TRIPS Council, most recently on 7 June 2011.

Intellectual Property: Africa

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has for the UK Patent Office to undertake joint working with intellectual property offices in Africa. [60590]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) does not currently work with African IPO's but will consider requests for technical assistance and the sharing of knowledge and best practice. We have commissioned research which will be published later this year on the effectiveness of intellectual property technical assistance. This will inform our future work programme with African intellectual property offices.

In addition, the Department for International Development (DFID) currently funds the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). This is a not-for-profit organisation that, on request, provides assistance to developing countries on intellectual property.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 398W, on local enterprise partnerships (LEP), how many private sector members representing *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized businesses each LEP has; and which LEPs have no representative of micro-businesses at board level. [60677]

Mr Prisk: To date 14 local enterprise partnership (LEP) boards have been recognised by the Government.

The following table shows the number of representatives of *(a)* micro, *(b)* small and *(c)* medium-sized businesses sitting on each recognised LEP board.

LEP	*Micro (0-9 Employees)*	*Small (10-49 Employees)*	*Medium (50-249 Employees)*
Cumbria	1	2	0
Greater Lincolnshire	1	1	0
Cheshire and Warrington	0	2	2
Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	1	0	0
The Black Country	0	0	0
Coventry and Warwickshire	0	2	0
Oxfordshire City Region	1	0	
Leeds City Region	0	2	2
Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough	2	2	3
West of England	0	0	0
Coast to Capital	4	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	2	1
Sheffield City Region	0	1	2
New Anglia	0	1	1

Some Board members will have had experience of running start-up companies and building them up. This previous experience is not reflected in the table. Similarly some board members as well as owning their own business will also have a role in organisations that represent businesses from more than one category, again this has not been captured. There is one instance where a board member owns two sizes of business and as a result has been listed under both categories.

Opiates

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has considered the merits of reviewing the licensing of opium derivatives in order to increase price competition. [59777]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The Government have committed to reviewing the controlled drug licensing arrangements relating to opium derivatives during 2011. This review will be lead by the Home Office, in consultation with other Government Departments as necessary.

Patent Office: China

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has for the UK Patent Office to undertake joint working with the China Patent and Trademark Office. [60591]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The Intellectual Property Office works with the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office to develop mutually beneficial improvements to our intellectual property (IP) systems. Under an agreement signed in June 2010, we are exploring ways to increase the effectiveness and quality of processes for handling patent applications in both countries. We are working to develop model IP agreements for UK-China collaborative research; we have joint seminars to encourage the use and understanding of our respective IP systems; and are discussing the feasibility of a fast-track for green patents in China, similar to the UK model.

Under a 2009 Memorandum of Understanding, the Intellectual Property Office is also working with the State Administration for Industry and Commerce to exchange information and best practice on trade mark examination procedures, oppositions and disputes, and enforcement procedures.

Patents

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of unprocessed patent applications. [60880]

Mr Davey: With respect to reducing the number of unprocessed patent applications at the European Patent Office and on a global level, I refer to my answer given on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 963W.

The Intellectual Property Office of the UK is itself working with offices from a number of other countries on work-sharing initiatives to reduce duplication of effort, and thereby to reduce patent application backlogs. Moreover, the Intellectual Property Office is pursuing a managed reduction in the stock of patent applications awaiting substantive examination. This is being achieved through matching resources to projected long-term demand, efficiency improvements, and selective use of overtime. The Office met its target of clearing all outstanding patent examinations older than 49 months by March 2011 and has been set a new target of reducing this figure to 42 months by March 2012.

Plastic Bags: Fees and Charges

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration has he given to the merits of placing a requirement on businesses to charge for plastic carrier bags. [59660]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

A range of measures to reduce the distribution of single use carrier bags was considered as part of the Review of Waste Policy and a decision will be made in 2012. This timetable enables us to take into account the experience in Wales, where a charge will come into force in October 2011, and the results of the European Commission consultation that is currently being undertaken on a number of possible options for reducing the use of plastic carrier bags, including charging and a ban.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of Regional Growth Fund applications which were declined were assessed as in breach of state aid rules *(a)* in each region and *(b)* nationally in the most recent round of applications. [59473]

Mr Prisk: State aid compliance was not assessed in a binary way during round 1 of the regional growth fund. A state aid compliance risk assessment was made for each bid and this was considered in parallel with the

other four published criteria: project location, additionality, sustainable private sector growth and value for money. As no bid was declined solely on the grounds of state aid it is not possible to provide the statistics requested.

Small Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on trends in *(a)* net capital investment by small businesses, *(b)* the proportion of managers of small businesses that carry out management or leadership training and *(c)* the use of ICT by small businesses in each year since 2005. [61121]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Net capital investment

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects information on net capital investment through its annual business survey.

Annual business survey (ABS), small firms, net capital expenditure

	2005	2006	2007	2008	£ million 2009
Less than 250 registered employees	32,266	33,155	36,440	37,941	32,600

Note:
The ABS covers about two-thirds of the UK economy including production, construction, distribution, and service industries.

(b) Leadership and management

The Department's regular small business survey contains information on the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that provided managers with management and leadership training.

Percentage of SME employers (1-249 employees) that provided management and leadership training to managers in previous year

	Time period of survey			
	2005	2006-07	2007-08	2010
At least some managers	23	25	28	32
All managers	10	11	11	15

Source:
Small Business Survey (2010) and Annual Small Business Survey (2007/08, 2006/07 and 2005)

(c) Use of ICT

The Department's regular small business survey collects information on ICT use by SMEs. For example, the small business survey 2010 found that 87% of SME employers had broadband for their business and 57% used the internet for advice on regulation. As a result of changes to the questionnaire it is not possible to compare trends since 2005.

The ONS conducts an annual survey into e-commerce and ICT activity and measures the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by businesses with 10 or more employees. This survey provides times series on a range measures, including whether businesses have a website.

Percentage of businesses with a website

Employment size	10-49	50-249	250-999	1,000+
2005	65	87	95	98
2006	66	89	96	98
2007	66	89	96	98
2008	71	91	94	98
2009	72	92	97	99

Coverage:
UK businesses with 10 or more employment

Website links

ONS Annual Business Survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/abs/

Results from BIS's small business survey and annual small business survey can be found on BIS's website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation/cross-cutting-research

ONS e-commerce survey:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6645&Pos=2&ColRank=1&Rank=390

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he or officials of his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Lloyds Banking Group, *(b)* Santander, *(c)* HSBC, *(d)* Royal Bank of Scotland, *(e)* Barclays and *(f)* other banks incorporated in the UK to discuss the provision of private student loans; and if he will make a statement. [59091]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* I met Barclays on 8 November 2010 to discuss professional and career development loans.

I met Santander on 24 May 2011 regarding its involvement in UK higher education via its Santander Universities programme. A broad range of higher education issues were discussed, including the possibility of the provision of private student loans.

BIS officials met Barclays bank in 2010 to discuss a range of issues related to student finance.

Supermarkets: Competition

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many arbitrations there have been under the Groceries Supply Code of Practice since it came into force. [60991]

Mr Davey: Between February 2010 and August 2010, there were no arbitrations. Over the coming months, the designated large grocery retailers who the Groceries Supply Code of Practice applies to will be submitting their annual compliance reports to the Office of Fair Trading.

Technology: Greater London

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1203W, what the monetary value is of the contract held by Hill and Knowlton for Tech City; and what the duration is of that contract. [60722]

Mr Prisk: The international marketing campaign contract won by Hill and Knowlton amounts to £99,945 inclusive of fees and costs for an initial 12-month contract.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1203W, on technology: Greater London, what the process was by which the contract for international marketing for Tech City was let. [60723]

Mr Prisk: The contract for the international marketing of Tech City followed Government tendering process.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1203W, on technology: Greater London, whether UKTI will tender for national marketing for Tech City. [60724]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment are leading on the national marketing of Tech City. There are no plans to put this service out to tender.

UK Trade & Investment

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of UK Trade & Investment are posted to each *(a)* embassy and *(b)* other mission. [60031]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is a joint Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organisation and is not an employing organisation in its own right. The majority of staff posted to our embassies and missions overseas and working for UKTI are employees of the FCO. In addition to staff posted to our embassies and missions from the UK, there are some 1,100 locally employed staff working for UKTI. A table which sets out the numbers of such staff by country and city (expressed as full-time equivalents) will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

VAT

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number and proportion of companies with value added tax registrations that *(a)* achieved £1 million of turnover and *(b)* employed 10 or more staff by their fourth year of trading in each year since 2005. [61114]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number and proportion of companies with value added tax registrations that (a) achieved £1 million of turnover and (b) employed 10 or more staff by their fourth year of trading in each year since 2005. (61114)

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at www.statistics.gov.uk. The tables below contains the latest statistics available, which show a) the number of VAT registered companies less than 4 years old with a turnover of 1 million or more and b) the number of VAT registered companies less than 4 years old with 10 or more employment. Both are given as a proportion of the total number of VAT based companies.

(a) VAT-based companies with £1 million turnover or more who are less than four years old in each reference year

	VAT-based companies less than four years old with a turnover of £1 million or more	*Total VAT-based companies*	*Percentage*
2005	18,140	796,970	2.3
2006	18,715	831,550	2.3
2007	19,025	873,600	2.2
2008	19,455	941,165	2.1
2009	19,580	970,210	2.0
2010	17,310	973,235	1.8

(b) VAT-based companies with 10 employment or more who are less than four years old in each reference year

	VAT-based companies less than four years old within an employment of 10 or more	*Total VAT-based companies*	*Percentage*
2005	18,120	796,970	2.3
2006	17,890	831,550	2.2
2007	17,635	873,600	2.0
2008	17,430	941,165	1.9
2009	18,325	970,210	1.9
2010	16,275	973,235	1.7

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 22 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Accommodation: Public Finance

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission was provided hotel accommodation at the City Inn, Westminster paid for from the public purse. [61043]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 22 June 2011:

Your parliamentary question has been passed to me for reply.

I joined the Commission in June 2008 as Managing Director for Corporate Services, based in Yorkshire. My contract included provision for overnight stays in London and, where necessary, Bristol, reimbursed by the Commission at its usual rate for overnight stays.

When the Board asked me to become Interim Chief Executive and Controller of Audit on 1 April 2010, following Steve Bundred's departure, I agreed to spend two or three nights each week in London. The Commission continues to pay for these overnight stays in accordance with my contract. The rate negotiated with the City Inn is consistent with the Commission's expenses policy for overnight stays in London.

In June 2010 the Board decided to suspend the appointment process for a new Chief Executive and continue with the interim arrangements. There has been no change to this policy since the government's announcement in August 2010 of its plans to disband the Commission. The Commission has not recruited a replacement to the former post of MD Corporate Services and has therefore saved the costs associated with that post.

Departmental Official Engagements

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his official engagements were during his visit to India in April 2011. [60848]

Robert Neill: During his visit to India in April 2011, the engagements of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, were as follows:

Meeting with Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister for Home Affairs;

Meeting with Mani Shankar Aiyar MP, former Minister for Panchayati Raj;

"Webinar" with UKTI India Network and FCO and DfID Climate Change team;

Meeting with Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of Water Resources and Minority Affairs;

Engagement with Delhi-based members of the British Business Group;

Visit to Hirehalli Gram Panchayat, including local village enterprise initiative and presentation of Gram Panchayat activities;

Visit to Tumkur Zilla Panchayat, including discussion with the Mayor and Deputy Commissioner of Tumkur;

Meeting with Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chair of the National Commission for Minorities;

Discussion of "Community Integration in India and the UK", hosted by the British high commissioner, with leading academics, social activists and media commentators;

Briefing with members of the Indian print media;

Meeting with Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, and officials from his Department;

Meetings with the British high commissioner and high commission staff.

Departmental Official Visits

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* officials of and *(b)* special advisers in his Department took part in his official visit to India in April 2011. [60807]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, was accompanied on his April 2011 visit to India by two officials from his Department, namely the Director for Decentralisation and the Big Society, and his Private Secretary. No special advisers attended.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the details of expenditure arising from his visit to India in April 2011, including the cost of *(a)* flights, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* transport and *(d)* food. [60808]

Robert Neill: Expenditure of £4,060.63 per person for international and internal flights, and £123.42 per person for accommodation arose from the visit to India in April 2011 of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

No cost was incurred for transport other than flights.

All meals in restaurants were paid for personally by members of the party.

In line with practice under the previous Administration, this trip was supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and was part of an ongoing focus by the British Government on building community relations, trade links and business opportunities between India and the UK—a trade relationship that is worth £13 billion per year.

The coalition Government have significantly cut the cost of ministerial travel compared with that of the previous Administration, as outlined in my answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 977W.

By way of comparison with similar trips undertaken by previous Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (John Denham) visited Bangladesh in January 2010 at a cost of £3,882 (cost for the Minister only) and was accompanied by three officials and a special adviser. The right hon. Member for Salford and Eccles (Hazel Blears) visited Pakistan, India and Bangladesh in July-August 2008 at a cost of £5,765 (again, excluding

costs of flights and accommodation for other members of the party). The right hon. Lady was accompanied by four officials on this visit.

Government Procurement Card

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any of the costs arising from his visit to India in April 2011 was paid for using a departmental credit card. [60809]

Robert Neill: None of the costs arising from the Secretary of State's visit to India in April 2011 was paid for using a departmental credit card.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership on the process followed in deciding the location of the proposed local enterprise zone for Bristol. [60975]

Robert Neill: None. My officials are in discussion with the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership on the development of its chosen site. However, the process followed in deciding the location within a partnership area of a proposed enterprise zone is not a matter for Ministers; it is an issue for the Local Enterprise Partnership to decide.

Rented Housing: Greater London

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on the affordable rent funding allocation for London; and if he will make a statement. [60886]

Grant Shapps: In setting out the framework for the Affordable Homes programme, we made clear that it must meet local priorities. This moves away from the previous rigid approach of subdividing the programme funding between areas in advance.

The Homes and Communities Agency has received an encouraging response from providers for new affordable homes for 2011-15. These offers are now being assessed, with initial contracts expected to be signed in September.

We have set out specific arrangements for London, given our commitment to devolve investment powers to the Mayor. We have said that we will seek to deliver a similar percentage of new affordable homes in London from the new programme as previously. This will depend on the relative value for money of offers in London and elsewhere.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 58W, on Travellers: caravan sites, which provisions of *(a)* the Human Rights Act 1998 and *(b)* the European Convention on Human Rights would potentially be breached if his Department proceeded with option 2 of the planning for Traveller sites consultation. [59425]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to page 42 of my Department's consultation paper of April 2011, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

As this is a public consultation, hon. Members are welcome to submit their views, including on the merits or demerits of the various options.

Vetting

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the special advisers in his Department are required to have developed vetting clearance. [60810]

Robert Neill: Special advisers are subject to the same security procedures as other members of the Department. As such they are subject to national security vetting where appropriate and in accordance with the criteria contained in the Prime Minister's statement of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 90WS, on Her Majesty's Government's personnel security and national security.

PRIME MINISTER

Devolution

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Prime Minister what progress he has made on the devolution of further powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive; and if he will make a statement. [60838]

The Prime Minister: We will consider requests for further devolution that have widespread support in Northern Ireland.

WALES

Arts: Cardiff

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the development of Cardiff as a hub for the creative industries; and if she will make a statement. [59740]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), discusses many issues with Welsh Government Ministers, including the creative industries.

The performance of Cardiff and the rest of Wales in this area is impressive. As the hon. Gentleman will be aware, the BBC is already developing a new "Drama Village" in Cardiff Bay. The previous Welsh Assembly Government announced their intention to develop proposals for a linked "digital media centre" close to this new development. These proposals open up opportunities to create a dynamic media hub for independent production companies and we will maintain a close interest as the plans develop. They had also identified creative industries as one of their priority sectors. I look forward to hearing whether the new Welsh Government will continue with these plans.

Like the Secretary of State, I am keen to see Wales' highly respected film and television production sector continue to flourish as that will attract new investment and jobs as well as retain that which currently exists.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to preserve heritage sites in England. [60964]

John Penrose: English Heritage has recently launched the National Heritage Protection Plan, which sets out why, what and how England's vulnerable historic environment is to be safeguarded in the next four years. It can be found at:

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and English Heritage are also considering various measures to tackle the problem of buildings which have been on the Heritage At Risk Register for an extended period of time.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61174]

John Penrose: The Department does not own or lease any properties outside Greater London.

Football: Females

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the future level of support for girls' football in Hull following the closure of the Football Association girls centre of excellence. [61041]

Hugh Robertson: Where centres of excellence have closed, as a result of the Football Association's recent review of girl's talent development, there will be understandable concern from girls and their parents. However, I am confident that the FA carried out its review fairly and in an open-handed way. I am pleased that the overall level of support given to talent development has not decreased.

I am reassured that the FA has undertaken to ensure that all girls who previously attend a centre of excellence should not lose out as a result of the change, and I expect that it will deliver on that commitment.

Local Broadcasting: Radio

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what support his Department provides to help community radio projects to obtain an FM or AM broadcasting licence. [61362]

Mr Vaizey: The licensing of community radio stations is a matter for Ofcom, which works independently of Government. However, earlier this year the Government sought assurances from Ofcom that a further round of community radio licensing would be undertaken to allow more community stations to be licensed. Ofcom began a third round of community radio licensing earlier this year.

Olympic Games 2012

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* future and *(b)* legacy of the Olympic Stadium. [60825]

Hugh Robertson: The Government's aim has been to find a long-term, sustainable use for the Olympic Stadium in legacy. The Olympic Park Legacy Company announced in February 2011 the selection of a consortium comprising West Ham United FC and the London borough of Newham as the preferred bidder for the long-term lease of the Stadium site and negotiations with the consortium continue.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 140W, on the Olympic Games 2012, how many schools in *(a)* London, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* Wales and *(e)* Northern Ireland have applied to join the Get Set Network to date; and whether schools incur any costs in joining the Get Set Network. [61318]

Hugh Robertson: Schools are now being encouraged to apply to the Get Set Network in every nation and region of the UK. Every school has been contacted to sign up, which is an easy process. So far 1,190 schools have signed up in London; 3,184 have signed up in the rest of England, 118 in Scotland, 75 in Wales, and 28 in Northern Ireland. There is no charge or costs to join the Get Set Network. The Network is run and funded by the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG).

Press Regulation

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on consumer interests of the present arrangements for the regulation of the newspaper and magazine distribution industry; and if he will make a statement. [61301]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no assessment. Competition matters relating to the effects on consumer interests of the distribution arrangements covering the newspaper and magazine industry fall to the Office of Fair Trading.

Tourism

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of expenditure on holidays by members of the public which was spent on domestic tourism in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2009-10. [61170]

John Penrose: VisitEngland has advised that the total spend by UK residents on domestic overnight trips in 2010 was £20.8 million, of which £12 million

was spent on holidays. Spend on domestic tourism day visits was estimated at £49.1 million. Total spend by UK residents abroad was £30.9 million (provisional).

Total spend by UK residents on domestic overnight trips in 2009 was £21.9 million, of which £12.6 million was spent on holiday trips. Spend on domestic tourism day visits was estimated at £47.6 million. Total spend by UK residents abroad was £31.7 million.

Data for domestic day visits and spend are calculated by Oxford Economics/Deloitte and based on surveys from 2002-05. VisitEngland is in the process of conducting an updated day visitor survey.

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to encourage domestic tourism. [61182]

John Penrose: The Government's plans for promoting domestic tourism are set out in detail in the paper, "Government Tourism Policy" published in March 2011, and available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7896.aspx

VisitEngland is working closely with areas and destinations, in line with Government's localism agenda, to grow the value of local tourism economies. This is co-ordinated through the National Strategic Framework for Tourism, which includes an action programme developed in consultation with the tourism sector. VisitEngland is currently working with local areas on a campaign to deliver economic growth from the domestic market, and to support employment and job creation.

The "Time to be in England" campaign will maximise the impact of the unique events of 2012, including the Queen's diamond jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic games, helping to spread the benefits of the games outside London and maintain a legacy of domestic tourism growth. The campaign is the subject of a bid to the second round of the Regional Growth Fund.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when regulations on the transport of liquids on commercial flights were last *(a)* reviewed and *(b)* revised; and when he next plans to review such regulations. [59954]

Mrs Villiers: EU regulations restricting the carriage of liquids in cabin baggage on commercial aircraft have been in place since November 2006. Subsequent EU regulations require the lifting of liquids restrictions, through a move to a screening-based system utilising new technologies, by 29 April 2013.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the effects of aviation on air quality. [60236]

Mrs Villiers: On 30 March 2011, the Government issued a scoping document entitled "Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation". This sets out a number of strategic questions which will help define the debate as we develop a long term strategy for aviation. It includes a section on local air quality. The deadline for responses is 30 September.

Also, the UK is supporting work in the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to develop a new standard to regulate the emission of PM (particulate matter) from aircraft engines.

Dee Harbour

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date he expects to finalise the Dee Harbour revision order for publication. [59311]

Mike Penning: The planning inquiry for this application and a separate application for Mostyn Docks were held in 2005, as there were overlapping provisions between the two applications. Following the inquiry some matters of fact on jurisdiction were raised and considered in 2009 and 2010, and needed to be concluded before a decision could be made.

We are considering whether we can proceed on the basis of the evidence considered at that inquiry or whether we need to conduct further consultation.

Road Signs and Markings

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable his Department has set for the review of brown signs on major routes managed by the Highways Agency. [60222]

Mike Penning: A working group consisting of the Highways Agency, the Department for Transport, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and VisitEngland has started discussions and a schedule of work is being taken forward through the summer. A more precise timetable will be set based on Ministers' assessment of progress in due course.

Roads: Safety

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for television road safety campaigns in 2011-12. [61433]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 5 April 2011 *Official Report*, column 877W.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 85WS, on Thameslink rolling stock, who will be responsible for maintenance of the new rolling stock. [61504]

Mrs Villiers: Assuming discussions conclude successfully with contractual close, Siemens plc will be responsible for maintaining the new trains under the award of the Thameslink contract.

Jobs relating to Thameslink train maintenance are expected to be created in Three Bridges and Hornsey where the planned depots will be built, subject to planning permission being granted.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Dogs

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions she has had with animal welfare charities on local authority stray dog services under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; [60854]

(2) whether Ministers in her Department have assessed the merits of reviewing the responsibilities of local authorities in respect of stray dog control under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; [60855]

(3) what recent estimate her Department has made of the size of the dog population; and if she will make a statement; [60856]

(4) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of resources allocated *(a)* to and *(b)* by local authorities for stray dog control; [60857]

(5) what consideration she has given to the merits of requiring all local authorities to operate a 24/7 stray dog control service under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; [60858]

(6) if she will assess the merits of including on her Department's website more information on responsible dog ownership; [60859]

(7) what consideration she has given to providing local authorities with advice on stray dog shared kennelling facilities under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005; [60860]

(8) what recent representations she has received from local authorities on stray dog control services. [60861]

Mr Paice: There are many estimates of the dog population in Great Britain, and these range between 8 million and 10 million.

Animal welfare charities have held discussions with DEFRA officials about the level of service provided by local authorities (LA) in relation to stray dogs, and DEFRA receives occasional inquiries from LAs about dog control services.

Currently, there are no proposals to review the responsibilities of LAs in respect of dog control services, and I am satisfied with the arrangements under which they are able to allocate funds for the provision of a stray dog service, as the Government consider that LAs must be allowed to prioritise their responsibilities and target their resources where they are needed. Additionally, LAs can arrange for kennelling services to be shared if they so wish.

Both the DEFRA and DirectGov websites contain helpful advice to owners on how to look after their dogs. However, DEFRA is always open to suggestions for ways we can provide even more helpful advice.

Cattle: Foot and Mouth Disease

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will review her policy of the pre-emptive culling of cattle during foot and mouth disease outbreaks in the light of recent research on the issue. [60916]

Mr Paice: I read with interest the research to which the right hon. Member refers. This is an important piece of research on foot and mouth disease in young cattle. DEFRA is collaborating with the researchers at the Institute for Animal Health to assess the value of these findings in managing disease outbreaks.

Quick reporting of suspect cases of the disease by farmers and veterinarians and selective culling of animals, coupled with vaccination where that can make an effective contribution to control, remain the best ways of stopping this disease.

Food Labelling

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations her Department has received on the country of origin labelling system. [60821]

Mr Paice: The labelling of the origin of food and food ingredients is currently under discussion in Europe as part of a regulation on the provision of food information to consumers. As part of the process of negotiating these regulations we have had representations from both industry and consumers on improving the clarity of origin labelling.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the voluntary food labelling scheme. [60823]

Mr Paice: On 26 May 2011 we published a benchmark evaluation of the uptake of the food industry's voluntary principles on the provision of country of origin information.

www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/labelling/country-origin/

The evaluation showed a variation in the uptake of the principles with "own brands" having a significantly higher level of uptake than branded foods. Overall, a relatively high number of meat and dairy products gave some form of origin labelling.

I welcome the industry's commitment to the principles and its continuing efforts to improve uptake. We will carry out a further comparative evaluation next year.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the reform of legislation on country of origin food labelling. [60824]

Mr Paice: Country of origin labelling is one of the issues under discussion in the negotiations on a new regulation on the provision of food information to consumers. The UK is actively negotiating these regulations. As part those negotiations the Department has had discussion with European colleagues at various levels, from ministerial council meetings to expert group meetings.

Origin Marking: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 548W, on origin marking: Israel, whether her Department's

voluntary labelling guidelines apply to *(a)* wine produced in Barkan and other settlements and *(b)* processed foods. [60552]

Mr Paice: The voluntary labelling guidelines referred to by the hon. Member apply to all food and drink, including wine and processed foods, originating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. As the guidelines make clear, there are specific EU labelling requirements attached to certain agricultural products, including wine. The Barkan winery, to which the hon. Member refers, has for several years been situated at Hulda, within the internationally-recognised territory of Israel, and not at the settlement of Barkan in the West Bank.

Pigmeat

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of bacon sold in the UK came from pigs that had been *(a)* bred, reared and processed in the UK, *(b)* bred and reared abroad and then processed in the UK and *(c)* bred, reared and processed abroad in the last year for which figures are available. [60822]

Mr Paice: Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) figures for 2010 show that a total of 406,000 tonnes of bacon was sold in the UK. 31% of this came from pigs bred, reared and processed in the UK (126,000 tonnes). For the remainder (280,000 tonnes), we are unable to differentiate whether the bacon has come from pigs bred and reared abroad and then processed in the UK, or bred, reared and processed abroad.

Source:

EBLEX/AHDB—A pocketful of meat facts 2011

Trees: Brighton

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking in conjunction with the designated authorities in the Brighton and East Sussex Dutch elm disease control area to safeguard the area's elm tree population; [60165]

(2) if she will make it her policy to support proposals to protect the national elm collection by conferring UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status on Preston Park, Brighton; [60166]

(3) if she will take steps to protect the oldest remaining English elms, the Preston Park Twins. [60167]

Mr Paice: The authorities in the Brighton and East Sussex Dutch elm control area have the legislative powers necessary to safeguard the area's elm population. These powers are set out in the Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984.

Brighton and Hove's application for Biosphere Reserve status will be considered against the UNESCO criteria and, if appropriate, endorsed by the UK Man and the Biosphere Committee of which DEFRA is a member. The final decision on any application rests with UNESCO. However, such a designation would not of itself affect the legal powers already available to local authorities to protect elms.

Waste Prevention Fund

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding her Department plans to allocate to the Waste Prevention Fund in each of the next four years; [61018]

(2) how much funding from the public purse has been allocated to the Waste and Resources Action Programme's mixed plastics loan fund in each of the last four years; and how much funding she has allocated in each of the next three years. [61019]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA allocates a grant on an annual basis to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to deliver a programme of work for England. We set out what we want WRAP to deliver in our Strategic Steer, but WRAP is responsible for allocating its budget to achieve the outcomes we specify.

WRAP is currently developing the Waste Prevention Fund, and has allocated £1 million to it.

The Mixed Plastic Loans Fund was established by WRAP in 2010-11 with funding of £2 million.

As with all of WRAP'S programmes, WRAP will evaluate the funds on an ongoing basis to ensure that they provides good value for money.

Wildlife: Circuses

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice she has received on the use of wild animals in circuses. [60944]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has considered the request for the release of legal advice provided to her in relation to the issue of wild animals in circuses. The advice is protected by legal professional privilege and the Government's position is that they do not ordinarily waive the legal privilege attaching to any legal advice received and the Secretary of State does not propose to do so on this occasion.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Injuries

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what collaborative work his Department is undertaking with the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency on trauma injury treatment. [61164]

Mr Robathan: While the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) is not currently engaged in any collaborative research work with the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the MOD is working in the area of trauma injury treatment with other United States Department of Defense (US DoD) areas. Examples are as follows:

Peripheral vascular trauma: Reperfusion strategies after vascular repair. Assessing the use of Erythropoietin (EPO) and statin to mitigate reperfusion injury in a model of hind limb ischaemia.

USA Collaborator: United States Armed Forces (USAF) Wilford Hall, Texas.

Development of a novel quality of limb tool to assess patient based functional outcomes following limb-threatening injury.

USA Collaborator: USAF Wilford Hall, Texas.

Temporary vascular shunting and strategies for mitigation of reperfusion injury.

USA Collaborator: USAF Wilford Hall, Texas.

Post-operational deployment Mental Health Screening study.

US DoD.

In addition, following the recent visit by President Obama we have set up a UK/US taskforce with the express aim of leveraging best practice from each other on medical and personnel issues.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what collaborative work his Department is undertaking with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory on trauma injury treatment. [61165]

Mr Robathan: Current areas of research undertaken collaboratively with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) on trauma injury are:

Addressing pre- and in-hospital fluid resuscitation strategies (with and without adjuncts) and their impact on, for example, survival, physiology, immunology and clotting;

Addressing potential treatment strategies for blast injury and their effects on physiology and inflammation;

Investigating the mechanism of blast brain and assessment of potential biomarkers;

Investigating the impact of blast on vascular injury; and

Assessment of anti-microbial wound dressings in a military setting.

Specific ongoing work strands are:

Trauma coagulopathy;

Battlefield pain management;

Limb trauma, vascular endothelial changes following blast injuries;

Reperfusion injury;

Markers of oedema (HIF1);

Morphine in a human volunteer model of hypovolemic trauma;

Effects of supplementary oxygen and recombinant activated factor VIIa on coagulopathy after trauma;

High efficiency supplemental oxygen mask to enable effective medical use of oxygen supplies in theatre and enhance physical and mental performance of personnel operating at altitude;

Developing a non-linear method of trauma outcome prediction;

Thromboelastogram (TEG) in goal-directed management of trauma coagulopathy;

TEG changes with resuscitation/fibrinolysis after trauma;

Near Infra-Red Spectroscopy (NIRS) in the assessment of major haemorrhage and trauma;

Developing complex extremity wound model and evaluation of dressings, fracture fixation and infection.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress he has made on plans to outsource armed forces recruitment to the private sector. [60714]

Mr Robathan: All three services have an extensive array of contracts to support their recruiting process.

The Army has set up a Recruiting Partnering Project (RPP) to outsource its recruitment. It is anticipated that an invitation for bidders to submit their final tenders will be issued later this year.

The Royal Navy and Royal Air Force already outsource discrete elements of their recruiting and assessment processes, such as contact centre services, medical and fitness testing and various marketing and advertising activities.

Defence: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the release into the public domain of classified research undertaken at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory; [61166]

(2) what process his Department uses to determine whether new UK military research and development projects should be classified. [61168]

Peter Luff: The Government protective marking system, which is used by Government Departments and agencies, is designed to protect sensitive material. Once applied, the marking values the material in terms of the damage likely to result were it comprised and determines the level of protection required to secure it. Protectively marked material, including "classified research," is not releasable into the public domain.

As a trading fund of the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is required to comply with that system.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure that military research and development expertise is disseminated to other Government Departments and agencies. [61167]

Peter Luff: Strong links exist across Government and the chief scientific advisers from Departments; they and their officials meet regularly. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has increased its exchanges with the security sector following the development of the National Security Strategy, and the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The "Equipment, Support, and Technology for UK Defence and Security" consultation paper explored these issues in more detail. A White Paper will be produced later in the year.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges his Department has issued in each parliamentary constituency in each year since the scheme's inception. [60767]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested.

As at 31 May 2011, 836,659 veterans' lapel badges have been recorded as being issued to former members of the armed forces and entitled dependants.

HMS Endurance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where HMS Endurance is berthed; and if he will make a statement. [61290]

Peter Luff: HMS Endurance is berthed in Portsmouth naval base.

HMS Protector

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the length is of the contract to rent HMS Protector; and if he will make a statement. [61085]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 830-31W, to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson).

Rescue Services

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on *(a)* replacement of the Sea King search and rescue helicopter and *(b)* the future provision of search and rescue capability; and if he will make a statement. [59921]

Peter Luff: Following the cancellation of the previous procurement process on 8 February 2011, the Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence are considering the potential procurement options to meet the future requirements for search and rescue helicopters in the United Kingdom, including replacement of the Sea Kings. We will make a further announcement once a way forward has been agreed.

Departmental Contracts: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60197]

Peter Luff: No reliable or comprehensive figure is available. Such information as we do possess does not include payments made by Government Procurement Card or payments for goods and services agreed locally by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and suppliers, as in both cases, neither the location of the work nor whether a supplier is a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) is recorded.

There is no central store of data which would allow the calculation of a separate estimate for agencies and therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in this context, and based on a sample of contracts, we estimate that around 50 of the circa 6,000 new contracts placed directly by the MOD in 2010-11 across the UK are known to have been awarded to Scottish-based SMEs. Significantly, this figure does not include contracts and payments made by the MOD's prime contractors through their supply chain, which are extensive and include a high proportion of SMEs.

The location of work data held on MOD systems does not align with parliamentary constituencies and thus does not allow for separate calculations for South Lanarkshire and Rutherglen and Hamilton West to be made.

The Department values highly the contribution of SMEs to defence, who often bring a level of innovation and flexibility that cannot be replicated by larger companies. Following the consultation Green Paper on "Equipment Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security" issued in December, the MOD is developing a number of proposals to improve access to defence contract opportunities for small businesses, and these will be set out in a Defence White Paper later this year.

Trident Submarines

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 February, *Official Report,* column 82, on nuclear weapons, whether any part of the £59 million spent on United States high steam generators and technology contributed to the design of the PWR3 Trident reactor. [60543]

Peter Luff: Of the £59 million, £25 million has contributed solely to the PWR3 reactor concept design work. The remaining £34 million was spent on work and technology in support of the wider next generation propulsion plant concept phase assessment and design work.

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* budget of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office is; and what plans he has for its future. [60523]

Mr Robathan: The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) manpower establishment for financial year 2011-12 is 1,152 average full-time equivalent.

The UKHO is expected to receive £11.977 million from voted funds for 2011-12, in order to fund the national hydrographic programme, defence specific requirements and the purchase of standard products by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Total turnover of the UKHO for the year ended 31 March 2010 was £116.6 million.

The asset management review that took place last year concluded that the UKHO will remain an Executive agency of the MOD and operate as a trading fund. It has since been confirmed that the additional marketing, information management and technology, external assistance and recruitment constraints imposed in May 2010 have been removed and the UKHO can now operate fully within the governance of the framework document.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equalities Act 2010

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to *(a)* bring into force those sections of the Equalities Act 2010 that have

not been brought into force and *(b)* bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Equalities Act 2010. [61328]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Government have already announced that they do not intend to take forward the Act's provisions on the socio-economic duty (sections 1-3), dual discrimination (section 14), and schedule 20 (certification and enforcement regime for rail accessibility). We will not commence section 78 (gender pay gap information) while we are working with business and others to ensure a voluntary approach is successful. We have been consulting on age discrimination in services, civil partnerships on religious premises and specific public sector equality duties. We will decide whether or not to commence the Act's remaining provisions, in the light of what we consider best for business and other interested parties.

We have already announced our intention to consult on harassment of employees by third parties. Any further proposals to amend the Act will reflect the outcome of its review as part of the Red Tape Challenge and would need to go through the normal procedures. We have made clear that there is no intention to abolish the Act or to dilute the protections it offers.

Crime

Mr Burley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps her Department is taking to reduce the incidence of hate crime against people with a learning disability. [60811]

Lynne Featherstone: Everyone should have the freedom to live their lives free from fear of targeted hostility or harassment, and the Government take all forms of hate crime very seriously, including those committed against people with a learning disability. We are working with the police, disabled people's organisations and others to improve the reporting and recording of disability hate crime, and to better protect repeat and vulnerable victims.

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 324W, if he will commission an assessment of the corporation tax gap attributable to avoidance by small and medium-sized businesses based in the UK. [60941]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's most recent estimates of tax gaps were published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010"

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

in September 2010. HMRC continues to review the methodologies used to produce tax gap estimates in the light of new information and data with the intention of producing finer levels of analysis of the tax gap in future publications. This will include more robust analysis of the taxpayer behaviours underlying the tax gap.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60334]

Justine Greening: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011, the Treasury has introduced the following statutory instruments:

Statutory instrument number	*Name of regulation introduced*	*Costs/Savings and further information*
No. 2011/593	The Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011	There are no costs of implementation. In conjunction with the Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 2011 this results in savings of £10.2 million per year.
No. 2011/883	The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation. These revoked the Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 1993, but all the provisions in the 1993 regulations were included with amendments to allow electronic communications
No. 2011/605	The Libya (Asset- Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/887	The Egypt (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/888	The Tunisia (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/1086	The Ivory Coast (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/1094	The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/1129	The Iran (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/1244	The Syria (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/783	The National Savings Bank (Amendment) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/1306	The First Option Bonds (Exchange of Securities) Rules 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/826	The Pensions Increase (Modification) Regulations 2011	There are no costs of implementation.
No. 2011/827	The Pensions Increase (Review) Order 2011	There are no costs of compliance.
No. 2011/1301	The Investment Bank Special Administration (England and Wales) Rules 2011	There are no costs of implementation.

Statutory instrument number	*Name of regulation introduced*	*Costs/Savings and further information*
No. 2011/1336	The Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010 (Permanent Effect) Order 2011	There are no additional costs of implementation. This measure continues a system put in place in 2010. Since it is renewing an existing provision, it does not fall in scope of One In One Out. Annual costs of the original measure were estimated to be £26 million a year, with benefits of £26 million for heavily indebted poor countries.
No. 2011/723	The Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 (Estimates and Accounts) Order 2011.	This statutory instrument was laid but is not regulatory.
No. 2011/1268	The Whole of Government Accounts (Designation of Bodies) Order 2011.	This statutory instrument was laid but is not regulatory.
No. 2011/892	The Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 (Commencement No.1) Order 2011.	This statutory instrument was laid but is not regulatory.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60494]

Justine Greening: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011, the Treasury has introduced the following statutory instruments which include revocations of previous regulations:

Statutory instrument number	*Name of regulation revoked*	*Costs/savings*	*Further information*
No. 2011/883	The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 1993	Savings of £10.2 million per year in conjunction with the Mutual Societies (Electronic Communications) Order 2011	The Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 2011 revoked the Friendly Societies (Proxy Voting) Regulations 1993 (as of 1 October 2011), but all the provisions in the 1993 regulations were included with amendments to allow electronic communications
No. 2011/1265	Companies (Single Member Private Limited Companies) Regulations 1992 and Companies (Single Member Private Limited Companies) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1992	No estimated potential saving or costs	Article 32 of the Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011 revokes the Companies (Single Member Private Limited Companies) Regulations 1992 and the Companies (Single Member Private Limited Companies) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1992

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much each Executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010; [56075]

(2) how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56177]

Justine Greening: The information requested for the Treasury's Executive agencies, the Debt Management Office and the Asset Protection Agency, between May 2010 and 31 March 2011 is shown in the following table.

	DMO	*£000 APA*
Total travel spending	44	28
Of which:		
Taxis	3	2
Trains	9	1
Buses	0	0
Commercial aircraft	31	26
Private aircraft	0	0
Chief Executive	[1]17	1

[1] A breakdown of this cost can be found on the DMO website: http://www.dmo.gov.uk/documentview.aspx?docname=publications/corpgovernance/BusinessExpenses2010-11.pdf&page=corporate_governance/Documents

Mutual Societies

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with the Financial Services Authority on ensuring that its consultation requirements for any proposed rule change take account of the likely effects of the change on mutuals in the financial services sector. [60965]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority is required currently to assess the impact of proposed rules across

all regulated firms, including mutuals, as part of the cost benefit analysis which it must publish alongside draft rules.

The Government now propose to strengthen these arrangements with respect to mutuals, as set out in the White Paper and draft Bill published on 16 June. The draft Bill includes provision requiring the new regulatory authorities to publish analysis of how draft rules may differentially affect mutual and non-mutual firms.

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in each region were living in persistent poverty in each of the last five years; and if he will estimate the equivalent figures for each of the next five years. [60345]

Maria Miller: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the proportion of children living in persistent poverty are published in the Low Income Dynamics (LID) series. LID uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in LID only allow breakdowns to UK level and analysis by region is not possible. However, figures for the UK are set out in the following table. The latest persistent poverty data cover 2005-08.

Persistent poverty is defined as the percentage of children living in relative low income for at least three out of the last four years. As a result the percentages shown in the table reflect the four-year period over which they were derived.

It is not possible to estimate persistent poverty by region for future years. Modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in relative child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for the UK overall; however given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may be on the edge of statistical significance.

Percentage of children living in persistent poverty before housing costs (BHC), UK

Period	*Persistent poverty (%)*
2001-02	12
2002-05	11
2003-06	10
2004-07	10
2005-08	12

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Low Income Dynamics (LID) data sourced from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified McClements equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
4. These statistics are publicly available in the Low income Dynamics on the DWP website:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/low_income/low_income_dynamics_1991-2008.pdf
Source:
Low Income Dynamics, DWP

Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level of avoidance of each direct and indirect tax in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date. [60986]

Mr Gauke: Estimates for the level of avoidance in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are not available.

The latest estimate is that avoidance accounted for 17.5% of the total tax gap in 2007-08, approximately £7 billion. This estimate was published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010" in September 2010:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

HMRC continues to review the methodologies used to produce tax gap estimates in the light of new information and data with the intention of producing finer levels of analysis of the tax gap in the future.

Tax Evasion

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level of evasion of each direct and indirect tax in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 to date. [60985]

Mr Gauke: Estimates for the level of evasion in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 are not available.

The latest estimate is that evasion accounted for 17.5% of the total tax gap in 2007-08, approximately £7 billion. This estimate was published in "Measuring Tax Gaps 2010" in September 2010:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

HMRC continues to review the methodologies used to produce tax gap estimates in the light of new information and data with the intention of producing finer levels of analysis of the tax gap in the future.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 1.10 of his Department's publication "A new approach to child poverty", how many people in each *(a)* region and *(b)* parliamentary constituency are recorded as being in multiple disadvantage. [60437]

Maria Miller: The child poverty strategy "A new approach to child poverty: tackling the causes of disadvantage and transforming families' lives" references the 'State of the Nation' report. The "State of the Nation report"[1] contains information about the prevalence and trends of multiple disadvantage and highlights those most at risk at a national level. The number of people suffering from multiple disadvantage is not available at a regional or a constituency level.

National estimates of the number of families with multiple problems are available from the Families and Children Survey. This information is not available by region or constituency.

[1] Cabinet Office (2010) "State of the Nation" based on analysis by strategy unit and social exclusion task force using BHPS 2007 data. Being at risk of multiple disadvantage entails being disadvantaged at any one time in three or more of six areas from the wider definition of multiple disadvantage which uses the following indicators: either live in a workless household or are unemployed; are either in income poverty or material disadvantage or financial stress; lack social support; either have poor physical or mental health; either live in poor housing or a poor living environment; have low qualifications.

Access to Work Programme

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* the city of Sunderland participated in the Access to Work programme in each year since 2007. [59932]

Maria Miller: The following table shows the number of individuals helped on the Access to Work programme each year since April 2007 and up to 31 December 2010[1, 2]:

[1] Figures for Sunderland central parliamentary constituency are included within Sunderland local authority

[2] Source: Access to Work database. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Area	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Q1, Q2and Q3 2010-11*
North East Government Office Region	1,760	1,890	2,190	1,810
Sunderland local authority	200	200	240	190
Sunderland central parliamentary constituency	70	70	90	70
Great Britain	27,720	32,130	37,300	32,680

Child Maintenance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to develop an integrated network of local support services to help parents make maintenance arrangements on separation; and if he will make a statement. [60756]

Maria Miller: The Government set out their vision for the child maintenance system in the Green Paper "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance". The consultation period ended on 7 April. The proposals seek to encourage parents to recognise their ongoing responsibilities following separation, and to support more separating families to work together to make arrangements that are in the best interests of their children.

Our discussions with the voluntary and community sector during the consultation period indicate that the vision to join up existing support to families, including support available locally, is shared by this sector. While excellent support already exists, it can be difficult for parents to access it when they need it.

We are working with the voluntary and community sector to understand how best to facilitate the joining up of local support, as well as working closely with the Department for Education as we build the evidence base on what support is most effective for different families. The Government are also awaiting the findings of the child poverty pilots to understand what approaches to co-locating services together are most effective in supporting separating families.

We aim to publish the Government's response to the consultation shortly.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of increasing the use of direct payment of child maintenance by deduction from earnings. [60759]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of increasing the use of direct payment of child maintenance by deduction from earnings. [60759]

Deduction from Earnings Orders are an effective means of collecting child maintenance either through a non-resident parent opting for this method of payment or where it is imposed following a non-resident parent's continued refusal to pay by other means.

However, imposing these orders more frequently could place an unreasonable burden of additional work on employers and increase the administrative cost of operating the statutory child maintenance system.

The Government wants to encourage parents to work together, and where possible, make arrangements for child maintenance between themselves. .However, for cases where family-based arrangements are not appropriate or have broken down there will still be access to the statutory scheme which will use all the powers at its disposal to secure regular payment of child maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60914]

Chris Grayling: The Department takes most seriously its statutory responsibilities to ensure that personal data and other sensitive information are properly safeguarded.

The vast majority of information used by the Department is stored, handled and processed on secure premises, which therefore reduces the risk of inappropriate viewing by third parties.

All employees are required to undergo annual training to remind them of their individual responsibilities to protect information while on and off the Department's premises, so as to prevent unauthorised access or viewing by third parties.

However, where risk assessments indicate that additional steps are required, these will include a range of measures, including, for example, the use of privacy filters for portable computers, and restricting employee use of personal phones during working time.

The Department requires that all portable electronic media such as laptops are encrypted to the relevant standard, so as to additionally protect the information they contain.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* disability living allowance and *(c)* severe disablement allowance in respect of each type of disability there were in each year since 2006; and how much was spent in each category in each such year. [53367]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether recipients of disability living allowance may work for up to 16 hours per week. [60043]

Maria Miller: Disability living allowance is paid in or out of work. This principle will be preserved in the new benefit—personal independence payment.

Disability: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people of working age in Bassetlaw constituency his Department recognises as having a disability. [51253]

Maria Miller: Figures regarding the number of disabled people in the UK are estimated using the Family Resources Survey. Owing to sample size restrictions, figures can be provided only at regional level, therefore we cannot provide an estimate of the number of disabled people of working age in the Bassetlaw constituency.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit claimants received *(a)* income and *(b)* contribution-based (i) employment and support allowance and (ii) jobseeker's allowance in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in the last year for which figures are available. [60895]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency by type and percentage

	Total	*Contributory based only*	*% of contributory only cases*	*Income based and contributory based*	*% of contributory and income based cases*	*Income based only*	*% of income based only cases*	*No benefit in payment*	*% of nil benefit cases*
February 2010	1,800	*300	17	—	—	1,100	61	*400	22
May 2010	1,700	*200	12	—	—	1,100	65	*400	24
August 2010	1,600	*200	13	—	—	1,200	75	*200	13
November 2010	1,700	*400	24	—	—	1,200	71	*100	6

"—" Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Figures are based on 5% sample data. All figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Numbers marked "*" are based on very few sample cases and are subject to a high degree of sampling variation, therefore these figures should be used as a guide only.
4. Caseload figures have been uprated by using 5% proportions against 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.
5. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number.
6. Income based only category includes hardship cases.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% samples

Employment and support allowance claimants in the Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency by type and percentage

	Total	*Contributory based only*	*% of contributory only cases*	*Income based and contributory based*	*% of contributory and income based cases*	*Income based only*	*% of income based only cases*	*No benefit in payment*	*% of nil benefit cases*
February 2010	500	140	28	30	6	230	46	100	20
May 2010	640	180	28	50	8	300	47	120	19
August 2010	690	210	30	60	9	320	46	110	16
November 2010	740	210	28	70	9	360	49	100	14

Notes:

1. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit for new claims from October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Percentages are shown to the nearest whole number.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of contributory employment and support allowance in the Work-Related Activity Group have as a primary or other medical condition *(a)* Parkinson's disease, *(b)* multiple sclerosis and *(c)* a severe visual impairment or are registered blind; and in each case how many have been in receipt of the benefit, including any period in the assessment phase, for one year or more. [61438]

Chris Grayling: Entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) is based on an assessment of functional capability, not on medical condition or diagnosis. The medical condition recorded on a claim form does not therefore in itself confer entitlement to ESA. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming ESA on the basis of Parkinson's disease would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Work Capability assessment. It is also important to note that, where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

From April 2012 onwards, it is proposed that claimants of contributory ESA in the assessment phase or Work Related Activity Group will have their contributory benefit time-limited to 12 months. However, for those who leave contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

People in the Support Group will not have their benefit time-limited because they have the most severe health conditions or impairments and are the least likely to move into work. People receiving income-related ESA will not have their benefit time-limited.

There will be some people leaving the benefit because their health improves; others' health will deteriorate and they will move from the WRAG into the Support Group. Those claimants that remain in the WRAG will include claimants whose conditions fluctuate or who have developed other functional impairments.

The following tables show the number of claimants in receipt of contributory ESA in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) phase, the Support Group phase and the assessment phase by main disabling condition and duration, as at November 2010.

Contributory ESA claimants in the WRAG by health condition and duration, November 2010

Primary health condition	*Total claimants*	*Duration of one year or more*
Parkinson's disease	300	190
Multiple sclerosis	1,030	680
Blindness and low vision	380	210
All other health conditions	79,950	47,680

Contributory ESA claimants in the Support Group by health condition and duration, November 2010

Primary health condition	*Total claimants*	*Duration of one year or more*
Parkinson's disease	200	140
Multiple sclerosis	830	550
Blindness and low vision	70	40
All other health conditions	27,600	15,090

Contributory ESA claimants in the assessment phase by health condition and duration, November 2010

Primary health condition	*Total claimants*	*Duration of one year or more*
Parkinson's disease	230	30
Multiple sclerosis	630	90
Blindness and low vision	150	20
All other health conditions	129,510	21,530

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Payment type: The type of ESA is defined as payment status as at end November 2010—this may differ to the status at the start or end of the claim.
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Phase of ESA claim is derived from payment details held on the source system. The three phases are assessment phase, Work Related Activity phase and Support Group phase.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of recipients *of (a)* contributory employment and support allowance in the Work-Related Activity Group and *(b)* contributory jobseekers' allowance have paid qualifying National Insurance contributions for (i) five years or more, (ii) 10 years or more and (iii) 15 years or more. [61439]

Chris Grayling: Information on the amount of national insurance contributions paid by contributory employment and support allowance/jobseeker's allowance claimants could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents on income support are eligible for fee remission on the basis of their benefit eligibility; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figure in September 2011. [61355]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise the importance that education and training can play in helping people find work and are committed to making sure that appropriate publicly-funded support is available for those who are required to engage in the labour market as a condition of receiving benefits.

All lone parents on income support in England are currently eligible to have any work-related training offered via Jobcentre Plus fully funded by public funds. The training offered will vary by location.

From August 2011, lone parents in England who have a basic literacy or numeracy need will be eligible for the fully-funded training that is available to all regardless of benefit status. Adults who need a first NVQ level 2 qualification, who they are aged 19 to 24 years old and need a first NVQ level 3, will also be eligible to receive fully-funded training. Other training will no longer attract full fee remission. Lone parents in receipt of income support who commenced training in the current academic year and who are still engaged in this training in August will be able to complete their training on a fully-funded basis.

Lone parents who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance will continue to be eligible for full fee-remission for training that will help them gain the skills required in the local labour market.

Early estimates for the number of lone parents on income support in Great Britain in April 2011 is 600,000. As of April 2011 there were 118,195 lone parents in receipt of jobseeker's allowance (DWP official statistics).

A forecast of the number of lone parents in receipt of either income support or jobseeker's allowance in September 2011 is not available.

Jobcentre Plus

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus officials at what locations have been made compulsorily redundant since May 2007. [60363]

Chris Grayling: No Jobcentre Plus staff have been made compulsorily redundant since May 2007.

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether Jobcentre Plus has entered into any sale and leaseback arrangements for its buildings in Scotland in the last five years; [60365]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of disposal of the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr; [60369]

(3) what funding his Department has allocated for capital expenditure on the Jobcentre Plus contact centre in Ayr in each of the last six years. [60371]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether Jobcentre Plus has entered into any sale and leaseback arrangements for its buildings in Scotland over the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of disposal of the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr and what funding his Department has allocated for capital expenditure on the Jobcentre Plus contact centre in Ayr in each of the last six years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP does not own its own estate. The Department signed a 20 year Private Finance Initiative contract with Telereal Trillium in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. As such the closure of the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr will reduce the overall cost of the contract and any costs incurred in the disposal will be recouped within an approved period.

The contract with Telereal Trillium means that our estates partner is responsible for maintaining all of our sites to the required standard. There has been no other capital investment in the Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre in Clydebank in the last six years.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the closure of the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr on the provision of client services in that area. [60368]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of the effects of the closure of the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr on the provision of client services in that area: This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Ayr Benefit Centre processes Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit on behalf of Jobcentre Plus. It is one of five centres across the country that handle this work. This means that Ayr Benefit Centre deals with claims and changes of circumstance from all over Great Britain, rather than just the local area. Therefore, there should be no impact on client services within the area, and this work will be transferred to another Benefit Centre within our network.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-8W, on jobseeker's allowance, whether his Department has revised its projection of the *(a)* jobseeker's allowance claimant count, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance claimant counted aged 16 to 24 years old, *(c)* average weekly jobseeker's allowance payment and *(d)* average weekly jobseeker's allowance payments to those claimants aged 16 to 24 years old in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [61185]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the Budget 2011 Forecast.

The information available is shown in the following table.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
OBR claimant count (UK, thousand)	1,553	1,509	1,397	1,281
Projected 16-24 case load (GB, thousand)	378	340	320	303
Average payment (£ per week)	62.11	65.16	66.65	68.01

Notes:
1. Claimant count figures represent an average point-in-time caseload for each financial year.
2. These figures do not take into account any effect from the Work Programme.
3. These figures include the effects of recent welfare reforms, such as the reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants, which have a lesser effect on those aged 16-24.
4. Figures are subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Sources:
OBR and DWP internal planning

The Department does not make any projection of the average benefit payment for 16 to 24-year-olds.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Scotland

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance claimants working less than

16 hours a week and *(b)* income support claimants are in part-time education or training in (i) Central Ayrshire constituency and (ii) Scotland. [61338]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children were living in households with both *(a)* low income and *(b)* material deprivation in each region in each of the last five years; and if he will estimate the equivalent figures for each of the next five years; [60346]

(2) how many children were living in relative low income households in each region in each of the last five years; and what his estimate is of the equivalent numbers in each of the next five years. [60353]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the households below average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The Government's measure of material deprivation combines material deprivation and low income. The following table shows the number and percentage of children living in *(a)* relative poverty, before housing costs (BHC) and *(b)* combined material deprivation and low income (BHC) in each region. The following data cover 2005-06 to 2007-08 and 2007-08 to 2009-10.

It is not possible to estimate low income and material deprivation or relative low income by region for future years. Modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in relative child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for the UK overall; however, given the uncertainty around these types of estimates, this change may be on the edge of statistical significance.

Number (million) and percentage

	Relative poverty						*Combined material deprivation and low income*					
	2005-06 to 2007-08		*2006-07 to 2007-08*		*2007-08 to 2009-10*		*2005-06 to 2007-08*		*2006-07 to 2007-08*		*2007-08 to 2009-10*	
Region	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
England	2.4	22	2.4	22	2.3	21	1.8	17	1.8	17	1.8	17
North-east	0.1	28	0.1	28	0.1	26	0.1	20	0.1	20	0.1	21
North-west	0.4	27	0.4	26	0.4	25	0.3	20	0.3	21	0.3	22
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.3	26	0.3	26	0.3	26	0.2	17	0.2	19	0.2	20
East midlands	0.2	26	0.2	25	0.2	23	0.2	19	0.2	19	0.2	18
West midlands	0.3	27	0.3	29	0.3	29	0.2	21	0.2	21	0.3	22
East of England	0.2	15	0.2	16	0.2	16	0.1	10	0.1	11	0.1	11
London	0.4	23	0.4	22	0.3	20	0.3	21	0.3	19	0.3	16
South-east	0.3	15	0.3	15	0.2	14	0.2	11	0.2	11	0.2	10
South-west	0.2	18	0.2	17	0.2	16	0.1	13	0.1	14	0.1	13
Scotland	0.2	21	0.2	21	0.2	20	0.1	15	0.2	16	0.2	15
Wales	0.2	27	0.2	26	0.2	25	0.1	17	0.1	17	0.1	20
Northern Ireland	0.1	24	0.1	24	0.1	26	0.1	14	0.1	14	0.1	16

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. These statistics are publicly available in the households below average income report on the DWP website: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbai
7. Each of the measures is defined as:

Relative poverty is defined as children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.

Low income and material deprivation: percentage of children living in households in material deprivation and with less than 70% of contemporary median household income.

Source:

Households below average income, DWP

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the devolved Administrations to discuss child poverty since May 2010. [60348]

Chris Grayling: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), his ministerial team and the Department's officials have regular discussions with the devolved Administrations and other stakeholders to discuss a range of issues, including child poverty. For example, representatives from the UK Government regularly engage with colleagues from the devolved Administrations as part of the Four Nations Forum on Child Poverty.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in deprived households in each year between 1981 and 1990. [60350]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the households below average income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household income adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The question asks about children living in deprived households, which I have interpreted as income below 60% of contemporary median income.

The following table shows the number and proportion of children with income below 60% of contemporary median income, before housing costs (BHC) in the available years between 1981 and 1990.

Period	*Number of children in millions*	*Percentage*
1981	2.6	19
1987	2.8	23
1988 and 1989	3.1	25
1990 and 1991	3.4	27

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Expenditure survey (FES). FES uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. FES figures are for the United Kingdom. These are single calendar years for 1981 and 1987; two combined calendar years from 1988 to 1991.
4. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
5. These statistics are based on incomes before housing costs.
6. Relative poverty is defined as children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
7. These statistics are publicly available in the households below average income report on the DWP website: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paae=hbaivl

Training Premium

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Sunderland were in receipt of the training premium in the last 12 months. [60382]

Chris Grayling: The information requested on numbers in receipt of the training premium is not available.

Unemployment: Ayrshire

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Central Ayrshire constituency aged 16 to 64 years were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. [61339]

Chris Grayling: In the year to September 2010 the number of people aged 16 to 64 in the Central Ayrshire constituency who were not in education, employment or training averaged around 15,000.

Vocational Training: Scotland

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Central Ayrshire constituency and *(b)* Scotland are registered as participating in a training course arranged by his Department. [61340]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many people in (a) Central Ayrshire constituency and (b) Scotland are registered on a training course arranged by his Department. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus refers customers to various training opportunities that are available. These could be nationally based opportunities or those only available locally. Our advisers are also able to refer customers to training provision that is not necessarily organised, arranged or paid for by the Department for Work and Pensions.

As a result, we have no centrally held records that inform us how many of our customers are registered on a training course at any one time. However Jobcentre Plus does record 'opportunities', be they training or some other type of work related activity that is not directly employment, for example work experience.

For 2010/11 and April and May of 2011/12 the total number of customers recorded as being referred to an opportunity in Scotland was 31,418. Similarly 3,392 customers were referred in the district that covers Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway. In addition advisers may refer customers to local training provision that does not get recorded on our national system; therefore these figures may be understated.

The source of the data is an internal system called EPR (Employment Provision Reporting).This is a performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer *(a)* questions 53714, 53716 and 53717, tabled on 26 April 2001 for written answer on 28 April 2011, *(b)* questions 52465, 52515 and 52510, tabled on 5 April 2011 for written answer on 26 April 2011, *(c)* question 44387, tabled on 1 March 2011 for written answer on 3 March 2011 and *(d)* question 40572, tabled on 9 February 2011 for written answer on 11 February 2011. [55995]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 17 May 2011]*: The hon. Member's questions were replied to as follows:

53714 on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1243-44W;
53716 on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 103W;
53717 on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 132W;
52465 on 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1336W;
52515 on 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 134W;
52510 on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1246W;
44387 on 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1339-40W;
40572 on 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 592W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Elections

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he is taking steps to ensure increased competition amongst companies dealing with elections. [59982]

Mr Harper: The responsibility for the conduct and delivery of elections, including the purchasing of all necessary equipment and software to run the polls, rests with locally appointed returning officers. The Government do not, therefore, have a role in the administration of individual elections on the ground. The Government's role is to maintain the legislative framework within which elections are run and to provide returning officers with funding for UK parliamentary and European parliamentary elections. It is therefore not the Government's role to promote competition directly among companies which provide electoral services, although we ensure that returning officers are aware of the need for value for money judgments to be made when purchasing equipment or procuring services for the conduct of the elections from suppliers.

The Government look to ensure that best value for money is achieved when entering directly into contracts with electoral suppliers and that the relevant legislative requirements are followed with regard to procurement.

Anti-competitive agreements and practices that have the effect of restricting or distorting competition, and abuse of market power by companies that have dominance in a market are outlawed by the prohibitions contained in the Competition Act 1998. Responsibility for enforcement falls to the Office of Fair Trading which has been given significant powers to investigate and act where it finds companies have breached those provisions.

HEALTH

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have received support from the Cancer Drugs Fund in the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust area. [60765]

Paul Burstow: Information at primary care trust level is not collected centrally.

The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011 to help thousands of cancer patients to access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,400 patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

Cannabis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons pharmaceutical companies have been licensed to develop cannabis-based medicines to be dispensed in the UK; and what consideration he has given to licensing the dispensation of similar medicines in naturally-grown formats. [60894]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government accepted that there was a need to explore whether cannabinoids had therapeutic properties and could be developed as an approved medicine for multiple sclerosis sufferers.

We are advised that the issue of licences to companies to manufacture, using controlled substances on specific premises, is the responsibility of the Home Office.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), an Executive agency of the Department of Health, is responsible for ensuring that medicines available in the United Kingdom are efficacious and acceptably safe. The MHRA will only grant a marketing authorisation for any given product once it is satisfied that the product is safe, efficacious and of an acceptable quality for use in specific medical treatments in the defined patient population and it can only do so in response to the submission of an application to market a product.

At this time, no application has been made to the MHRA in relation to "naturally-grown formats" of cannabis. The only cannabis-based medicine to be licensed in the UK is Sativex, a product licensed for use as an add-on treatment for multiple sclerosis-related spasticity when people have shown inadequate response to other symptomatic treatments or found their side effects intolerable. It is based on extracts of two specific varieties of cannabis and controlled so as to produce a product with consistent properties.

Children: Diseases

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review its appraisal mechanism for treatments for *(a)* children and *(b)* very rare diseases. [61045]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to review its technology appraisal mechanism.

NICE is an independent body and is responsible for developing and reviewing its own appraisal processes and methods, in consultation with stakeholders, and last did so in 2008-09.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60910]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department regularly promotes the need for visual data security by means of security awareness events and by providing awareness material on the departmental intranet. Regular targeted briefings and security campaigns highlight the need to ensure protectively marked information is not visible to others while on the move.

All departmental staff and contractors are required to carry out information assurance training annually, based on the National School for Government online learning tool "Protecting Information". This includes a module covering data security away from the office including working on public transport and in other public areas.

Gender Recognition

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that no GP consortium shall refuse treatment to an individual diagnosed with gender dysphoria. [61321]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will take responsibility for specialised commissioning, including the commissioning of gender identity services. Each gender reassignment case must be considered individually, according to clinical need and local prioritisation.

Health and Social Care Bill

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many items of correspondence his Department has received on the Health and Social Care Bill from residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [60900]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental records show that, since 6 May 2010, we have received five items of correspondence from residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency about the Health and Social Care Bill. This includes one item of correspondence that consisted of 18 letters from residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford.

Health Services: Finance

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government spent on health services in real terms in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what proportion of any change in expenditure was allocated to (i) the NHS and (ii) the private health sector. [60931]

Mr Simon Burns: Total NHS expenditure outturn in 2009-10 was £101.884 billion.

However in order to compare this figure with the outturn in 2010-11 it must be calculated on the same basis as the 2010-11 outturn. In 2010-11 HM Treasury introduced a new accounting practice, "alignment", which involved the removal of cost of capital and transfer of resource expenditure for new provisions from departmental expenditure limits to annually managed expenditure. On an aligned basis, i.e. calculating 2009-10 on the same basis as 2010-11, NHS expenditure outturn in 2009-10 was £99.45 billion.

Final outturn expenditure for 2010-11 is not yet available. The latest forecast outturn expenditure in 2010-11 (as published in Budget 2011) is £102.985 billion: a real terms increase of 0.6%.

Expenditure in the private sector in 2009-10 as reported in audited primary care trust summarisation schedules was £4.149 billion.

It will not be possible to determine the proportion of change in expenditure allocated to the NHS and the private health sector until the final outturn for 2010-11 is known.

Heart Diseases: Children

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of co-location of treatment and follow-on care services for child heart surgery patients. [60885]

Mr Simon Burns: The review of children's heart surgery units ("Safe and Sustainable" review) is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however been following its progress.

The service standards developed by the Safe and Sustainable Steering Group, against which current services have been assessed and which are proposed as designation standards for future services, include 30 standards (out of a total of 156) relating to co-location of other paediatric services and a further two on services for adolescents. Eight criteria were used to score current centres (for the assessment) and these include one on interdependent services (or co-location). This criterion was ranked four and carried a maximum score of 70 out of 685. This process is set out in the Pre-consultation Business Case pages 50 to 56. The scoring of centres fed into a wider evaluation of the options for future services.

The criteria against which the options for future services were evaluated included the consideration that:

"the negative impact for the provision of paediatric intensive care and other interdependent services is kept to a minimum".

This was part of the "deliverability" criterion, which was weighted 22 out of 100. This is set out in the pre-consultation business case on page 65. This can be found at:

www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/library/30/Safe_and_Sustainable_Review_of_Childrens_Congenital_Cardiac_Services_in_England_Pre_Consultation_Business_Case.pdf

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any effects on infant mortality and morbidity arising from residence in the vicinity of an incinerator; and if he will make a statement. [61144]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not commissioned research specifically on any effects on infant mortality and morbidity arising from residence in the vicinity of a municipal waste incinerator. The Health Protection Agency published a report of its review of the latest scientific evidence on the health effects of modern municipal waste incinerators in September 2009. The report concludes that while it is not possible to rule adverse health effects

out completely, any potential damage from modern, well-run and regulated incinerators is likely to be so small that it would be undetectable.

IVF: Finance

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is taking any steps to encourage primary care trusts to continue funding IVF treatment. [61490]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers.

The national health service deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight to those involved in commissioning fertility services the importance of having regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of IVF are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

A copy of this communication has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123405.pdf

Additionally, he supports Infertility Network UK—a leading patient support organisation—to develop and promote standardised access criteria and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

Life

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what process his Department carried out in inviting the organisation Life to participate in its Sexual Health Forum; [61087]

(2) what account his Department took of the participation in sexual health promotion or prevention programmes of the organisation Life when inviting it to participate in its Sexual Health Forum; [61088]

(3) what account his Department took of the policies on the use of condoms to prevent the spread of HIV and sexually transmitted infections of the organisation Life when inviting it to participate in its Sexual Health Forum; [61089]

(4) what account his Department took of the policies on modern methods of contraception of the organisation Life when inviting it to participate in its Sexual Health Forum. [61090]

Anne Milton: The Sexual Health Forum has been established to provide advice to the Department on matters relating to sexual health and HIV. In considering the stakeholder groups who will sit on the core Forum, we felt that it was important to ensure that a wide range of views and interests are represented. This is why Life has been invited to join. Other organisations who sit on the Forum include Brook (the young people's sexual health charity), the Family Planning Association, Terrence Higgins Trust and Marie Stopes International.

NHS: Procurement

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the anticipated efficiency savings from procurement he expects will come from procurement in hospital trusts and other provider organisations; and what proportion of those savings he expects to be attributable to the procurement of medical and surgical equipment. [60853]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has in place clear plans through the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention workstream to support the national health service in making £1.2 billion in savings on procurement over the next three years. This applies exclusively to NHS providers—NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts.

These savings are to come in four main areas:

reducing price variation (all providers to use best available prices): £598 million;

efficiencies in back office organisation: £65 million;

improved use and management of stock: £283 million; and

clinical efficiencies (release of time for more direct clinical work): £142 million.

In 2009-10 £16.5 billion was spent by NHS providers (NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts) with external suppliers on the procurement of goods and services. This £16.5 billion comprises a number of different expenditure categories such as drugs, non-clinical supplies and services, transport and establishment; all of which may include elements of medical supplies and equipment. But the category "clinical supplies and services" will cover most of the purely medical and surgical equipment and consumables (such as single use drapes and gowns, bandages etc.). Expenditure in this particular category for 2009-10 was £4.5 billion.

A significant proportion of the savings from reducing price variations is expected to be achieved from the "clinical supplies and services" category. This category is also expected to contribute savings from improved use and management of stock and resulting clinical efficiencies.

NHS: Reorganisation

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each person who participated in the listening events as part of the NHS Future Forum. [60837]

Mr Simon Burns: All members of the NHS Future Forum listened to individuals and organisations as part of this process. The full list of NHS Future Forum members is:

Lord Victor Adebowale, Chief Executive, Turning Point

Dr Charles Alessi, Senior GP Partner, The Churchill Practice

Geoff Alltimes, Chief Executive, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Dr Frank Atherton, President, Association of Directors of Public Health

Vicky Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, Principia, Partners in Health, Nottingham

Sally Brearley, Patient representative

Sheila Bremner, Chief Executive, Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

Dr Simon Brown, Huntingdon GP Consortia pathfinder lead

Sir Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive, Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations

Professor Hilary Chapman, Chief Nurse, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Ratna Dutt, Chief Executive, Race Equality Foundation

Moira Gibb, Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden

Mark Goldring, Chief Executive, Mencap

Paul Farmer, Chief Executive, Mind

Mr Derek Fawcett, Consultant Urological Surgeon, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Professor David Fish, Managing Director, UCL Partners

Peter Hay, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council; and Vice President, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

Thomas Hughes-Hallett, Chief Executive, Marie-Curie Cancer Care

Prof. David Kerr, Professor of Cancer Medicine, Oxford University

Joanna Killian, Chief Executive, Essex County Council

Clare Leon-Villapalos, Intensive Care Nurse, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Dr Paul Lelliott, Consultant Psychiatrist, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Chris Long, Chief Executive, Hull PCT

Malcolm Lowe-Lauri, Chief Executive, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Bill McCarthy, Chief Executive, Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority

Claire Marshall, Head of Professions, Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Anthony McKeever, Chief Executive, Bexley Care Trust

Dr Kathy McLean, Medical Director, NHS East Midlands

Julie Moore, Chief Executive, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Peter Nightingale, President, Royal College of Anaesthetists

Mr Dermot O'Riordan, Medical Director and Consultant Surgeon, West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust

Dr Niti Pall, Practising GP, Smethwick; and Chair and Clinical Lead, West Midlands Third Wave pathfinder consortia

Tom Riordan, Chief Executive, Leeds City Council

Cllr. David Rogers, Chair, Local Government Association Community Health and Wellbeing Board

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust

Mr Matthew Shaw, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Co-founder, Remedy UK

Ash Soni, Pharmacist, Lambeth; and Chair, Lambeth Professional Executive Committee

Professor Jimmy Steele, Head of School and Professor of Oral Health Services Research, Newcastle University

Professor Terence Stephenson, President, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

Jeremy Taylor, Chief Executive, National Voices

Professor Sir John Tooke, Vice-Provost, University College London

Dr Robert Varnam, Practising GP, Manchester

Gill Walton, Director of Midwifery, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr Francis Wells, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Public Health

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to require commissioning bodies to include public health specialists. [61028]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with the recommendations of the NHS Future Forum, the Government intend to bring forward amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill to provide a more direct duty on clinical commissioning groups and on the NHS Commissioning Board to obtain advice from a wide range of health professionals, including those with expertise in the protection and improvement of public health.

As announced in the Government's response to the NHS Future Forum, it is also intended that the NHS Commissioning Board will in future host clinical senates that bring together a range of health and care professionals, including public health specialists, to give expert advice and support the better integration of services for patients. The Department also intends to bring forward more specific proposals in response to the recent public health consultation on how to ensure that public health professionals, in partnership with NHS commissioners, play a key role in providing leadership to drive improvements in quality and patient outcomes and to reduce health inequalities.

Under our proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill, all clinical commissioning groups will have a governing body with decision-making powers. We do not intend to prescribe in detail the professional membership of governing bodies, but they will have to include at least one registered nurse and one doctor who is a secondary care specialist. The main function of the governing body will be to ensure that commissioning groups are run in a way that ensures effective stewardship of public resources and effective decision-making. This will include ensuring that the group obtains advice from the appropriate range of health professionals.

Public Health: Broadcasting

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government spent on television public health campaigns in relation to drug misuse in each of the last five financial years. [60927]

Anne Milton: FRANK is the national drugs internet information and advice service funded by the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Department for Education.

The contribution from the Department of Health for television advertising in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

	£
2010-11	0
2009-10	775,703
2008-09	608,606
2007-08	0
2006-07	789,933

These figures reflect media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding productions costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Buildings

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the budget for *(a)* rent and *(b)* maintenance was of his Department's offices in the latest period for which figures are available. [60978]

Mr O'Brien: In the UK, the Department for International Development has only one leasehold property, that being our London Headquarters at 1 Palace Street, SW1. The budget for rent to be paid by DFID for 2011-12 is £4.6 million. The total budget for planned preventative maintenance for our two UK offices for 2011-12 is £280,000.

In 2010-11 DFID spend a total of £12.7 million on rental and maintenance costs for overseas offices and accommodation, including £3.2 million on office rental and £430,000 on maintenance for both offices and accommodation. We are unable to disaggregate this maintenance figure further.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60912]

Mr O'Brien: It is not in the interests of the UK's national security for the Department for International Development (DFID) to describe our visual data security measures. Such disclosure could undermine the integrity and security of departmental systems and thereby expose them to potential threats.

Departmental Manpower

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many full-time equivalent staff his Department employs; and what the cost of running his Department was in the last year for which figures are available. [60915]

Mr O'Brien: During the year ended 31 March 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) employed an average of 2,322 full-time equivalent staff across its UK and overseas locations. Total staff costs for the year ended 31 March 2010 were £112 million, within total expenditure for the Department of £7 billion.

Location

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department has an office. [60995]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development has an office (or offices) in the following countries:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
China
Democratic Republic of Congo
Ethiopia
Ghana
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Jamaica
Kenya
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Malawi
Montserrat
Mozambique
Nepal
Nigeria
Occupied Palestine Territory
Pakistan
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Uganda
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated for the rebuilding of the Nahr el Bared refugee camp in Northern Lebanon. [60896]

Mr O'Brien: The UK supports Palestinian refugees in Lebanon through its five-year arrangement with UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide unearmarked funding to its general budget. This allows UNRWA to plan for the long term and improve service delivery to refugees across the region. Approximately 12% of UNRWA's general budget spending is in Lebanon.

In 2010-11 the UK gave £27 million to UNRWA's general budget and an additional £1.5 million to help support vulnerable families displaced from Nahr el Bared camp. The UK has not allocated any funding in 2011-12 for reconstruction of the Nahr el Bared camp.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure the effective delivery of aid to south central Somalia. [60743]

Mr O'Brien: Approximately 75% of the Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian support in Somalia is focused in south central Somalia

where needs are greatest, but where humanitarian access is most challenging. DFID supports United Nations, Red Cross and international non-governmental organisation partners who have experience of working in the area and who have robust programme and financial management and monitoring systems in place. DFID also actively supports the United Nations humanitarian co-ordination for field-level capacity to effectively manage, monitor and report on the overall international humanitarian response.

We remain extremely concerned that despite these efforts, access constraints mean some needs in south central Somalia are going unmet this year.

Taxis

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on taxi fares for staff in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the rest of the world in the latest year for which figures are available. [60977]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £192,784 on taxi fares in financial year 2010-11. A further breakdown of spend between the UK and the rest of the world cannot be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Elections

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the decision by the Bosnian High Representative to suspend certain decisions taken by the Central Electoral Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 March 2011. [60655]

Mr Lidington: On 28 March 2011, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Valentin Inzko, used his executive powers to issue a decision temporarily suspending two decisions of the Central Election Commission relating to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) House of Peoples and to the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the FBiH. This decision was taken following consultations with the Peace Implementation Council of which the United Kingdom is a member. The High Representative made clear that the decision was needed to enable the vital functions of government to continue without legal ambiguity pending an anticipated deliberation of the Federation Constitutional Court (although the relevant requests for legal review have since been withdrawn by the politicians concerned). The Government fully support the High Representative, including in this application of his executive powers.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60193]

Mr Lidington: As part of the Government's small and medium enterprise (SME) programme the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) published on its website an SME action plan that details the steps the FCO is taking to increase procurement opportunities for SMEs during 2011-12. The plan is published at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/word/4535138/sme-action-plan-11

The FCO will be targeting some large procurement framework projects operating outside the UK for specific UK SME involvement where it is relevant. We will also review our UK and global procurement processes to ensure we remove any barriers to SMEs wishing to do business with us, while recognising the differing requirements in terms of contract performance and operational risk around the world.

Entry Clearances

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has made an assessment of the Home Office consultation, Employment Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers; and what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department in relation to that consultation. [61186]

Alistair Burt: The consultation on Employment Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers was published on 9 June and represents an agreed Government approach to reviewing these migration routes. Prior to its publication, the Home Affairs Committee and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, were consulted on the document, and before this, the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) discussed elements of the draft consultation at the regular meetings with the Minister for Immigration. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials were involved at an early stage in the development of the consultation proposals.

Gilad Shalit

Mr Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his Department and *(d)* British embassy staff in Israel have had with the family of Gilad Shalit since February 2011; whether any meetings are scheduled during the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [60468]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador in Tel Aviv will meet with Gilad Shalit's family in the run-up to fifth anniversary of his kidnapping. We reiterate our demand the he be released immediately and unconditionally. It is unacceptable that he has been held for five years without any Red Cross access.

We are always open to requests for meetings from Gilad Shalit's parents and their representatives and offer assistance wherever we can.

Kashmir: Politics and Government

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Indian-administered Kashmir. [60157]

Alistair Burt: Officials from our high commission in New Delhi made one of their regular visits to Indian-administered Kashmir last month. Indian- administered Kashmir is calmer compared with last summer when over 100 civilians died during violent protests. The improvement is in part due to actions taken by the security forces and the Indian Government since last year. Local elections have also enabled people to address grievances through the ballot box. The Indian Government have increased engagement with those in Srinagar through the appointment of three interlocutors to make recommendations for a political solution.

The Governments of India and Pakistan are currently holding a series of talks addressing issues between them. Both have stated publicly that they expect Kashmir to be included on the agenda on a future round of discussions.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings his Department has had with other nuclear armed signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to discuss the obligations of article VI of the treaty in the last 20 years. [61337]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), in close collaboration with our Ministry of Defence colleagues, has discussed the Non-Proliferation Treaty's (NPT's) article VI disarmament obligations with the four other nuclear weapon states recognised by the treaty on innumerable occasions over the last 20 years. We have discussed our obligations at NPT Review Conferences and Preparatory Committees, the Conference on Disarmament, the UN's Disarmament Commission and First Committee, in bilateral ministerial and senior official meetings, and via videoconference. The FCO hosted a P5 Conference on nuclear disarmament in September 2009—bringing together for the first time policy makers, military staff and nuclear scientists from all five nuclear weapon states. We look forward to the next P5 Conference in Paris at the end of this month.

Passports: Lost Property

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people requested assistance relating to stolen or lost passports at UK embassies in *(a)* Europe and *(b)* the US in each of the last two years. [60636]

Alistair Burt: The following figures are taken from Compass, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office consular database:

	Number
2009-10	
Europe	14,459
US	3,272
2010-11	
Europe	13,609
US	3,120

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation of internally displaced people in Sri Lanka. [61141]

Alistair Burt: The Sri Lankan Government have made much progress in enabling the resettlement of internally displaced people (IDPs), but challenges remain.

As of 13 May, the UN report that 17,580 remain in IDP camps. Most of these are from Mullaitivu, which is yet to be demined.

The Department for International Development is providing £3 million for demining in Sri Lanka, which will enable even more IDPs to return to their homes. On 13 June, our deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka visited recently resettled families in Jaffna, in an area benefitting from UK demining assistance.

When I spoke with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 31 March I expressed our desire for further improved humanitarian access to the north and the need to address ongoing challenges of resettlement. These include shelter, livelihoods and infrastructure.

UN Resolutions: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking *(a)* to promote the protection of women in areas of conflict and *(b)* to monitor the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1820. [61265]

Mr Bellingham: The Government are committed to improving the protection of women in conflict. They have made national, bilateral and multilateral commitments to promote the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence and improve intervention strategies in the prevention of such violence. The Government are taking a range of actions to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820 (2008).

Last year, the UK led efforts in the Security Council for the adoption of UNSCR 1960 (2010) which provides an accountability system for the implementation of UNSCR 1820, including through the establishment of monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements specific to conflict-related sexual violence.

More detail on the Government's work in this area can be found in the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security which is available in the House Library.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measures in UN Security Council Resolution 1888, on protecting women and girls from sexual violence in conflict. [61285]

Mr Bellingham: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1888 (2009) strengthened the implementation of UNSCR 1820 by assigning leadership and establishing effective support mechanisms for this agenda.

It led to the appointment of Margot Wallstrom as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who is co-ordinating UN efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, and to facilitate the rapid deployment of teams of experts and advisors to situations of concern.

We encourage Ms Wallstrom to work with the head of the UN agency UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, in driving forward the international community's efforts in this area.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in promoting the role of women in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction. [61292]

Mr Bellingham: The UK played an active part in the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000), which was the first UNSCR to link women to the peace and security agenda and forms the basis of our National Action Plan. The resolution recognises that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and calls for their active participation at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace processes, post-conflict peace-building and governance.

Some progress has been made. However, according to the UN, since 1992 only 2.5% of signatories, 3.2% of mediators, 5.5% of witnesses and 7.6% of negotiators in peace processes have been women. All states need to do more.

The Government are committed to ensure that the promotion of women's participation in conflict resolution is an integral part of our overseas conflict policy because the principles of equality and justice underpin our values and because their effective participation and protection help secure more sustainable peace which is vital to our security interests.

More detail on the Government's work in this area can be found in the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security which is available in the House Library.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support the participation of women in public life, conflict resolution and peace initiatives in Afghanistan under *(a)* its action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and *(b)* UN Security Council Resolution 1889; and if he will make a statement. [61293]

Mr Bellingham: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1889 (2009) calls for the UN Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of UNSCR 1325. It also calls for the strengthening of national and international responses to the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The UN agency UN Women is currently formulating a set of indicators for adoption by the UN Security Council. UN Women's executive director, Michelle Bachelet, is committed to driving forward international efforts on this agenda and we are working to ensure that Women, Peace and Security will form a key part of the new agency's strategic work plan.

The Government have been at the forefront of the creation of UN Women and, as the Security Council lead on UNSCR 1325, we will continue to provide political support to the agency, including work on the development of global indicators. This remains a commitment in our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security which is available in the House Library.

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measures in UN Security Council Resolution 1889. [61294]

Mr Bellingham: Afghan women are increasingly playing a role in shaping the country's future. Some progress has already been made, although much more needs to be done.

The Government continue to provide political and financial support to programmes in Afghanistan which promote women's participation in public life, including support to female parliamentarians and women's civil society groups.

Our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security includes specific commitments on:

Securing the needs and priorities of women in Afghan Security Policy and peace-building efforts;

Increasing the number, influence, and capacity of female Afghans in public life;

Strengthening the capacity and visibility of Afghan women's civil society organisations; and

Increasing female participation in security and justice structures.

More detail on the Government's work in this area can be found in the UK National Action Plan, which is available in the House Library.

USA: Cotton

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on subsidies for US cotton farmers; and whether he raised this issue during the recent visit to the UK of the US President. [61503]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, did not discuss subsidies for US cotton farmers in his most recent meeting with his US counterpart during the US state visit. However, the Prime Minister discussed with President Obama the importance of reaching an outcome on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) this year and ways of achieving this. The issue of cotton subsidies remains

high on the Government's agenda, and we believe that a successful conclusion of DDA will be the best route for reform of cotton subsidies.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from UK energy-intensive industries since his decision to implement a carbon floor price mechanism. [61216]

Gregory Barker: Following the Chancellor's Budget Announcement, DECC Ministers and officials have received correspondence from, and held meetings with, several representatives of UK energy-intensive industry. This includes industry associations and representatives from the aluminium, chemicals, lime, non-woven textiles, paper and steel sectors.

The Government are looking at how to keep British industry competitive in the transition to a low carbon economy as part of the joint BIS/DECC energy-intensive industry project. As set out in the recent Fourth Carbon Budget Statement, Government will announce by the end of the year a package of measures for the EII sector whose international competitiveness is most affected by UK energy and climate change policies.

Electricity

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to publish all contracts issued under the contract-for-difference model in his proposals for energy market reform. [59750]

Charles Hendry: We will publish a White Paper on electricity market reform this summer. My officials are considering details of contracting arrangements for low carbon generation alongside other implementation issues. Decisions on detailed policy will need to balance transparency with the appropriate handling of commercially sensitive information.

Electricity: Meters

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will investigate the service charges levied by energy companies for domestic pre-payment meter users. [61286]

Charles Hendry: Setting of tariffs, including the cost of providing a supply, is a commercial matter for the company itself.

The manufacturing cost of a pre-payment meter and the provision of the administrative infrastructure required to support it are customarily higher than other types of meters. However, during its recent review into the effectiveness of the retail market, Ofgem found that pre-payment meter customers now pay, on average, £20 less than standard credit customers for their gas and electricity.

Energy Saving Trust: Finance

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 579W, on the Energy Saving Trust, if he will ensure that information made available to the public by the Energy Saving Trust will continue to be made available once the trust ceases to receive public funding. [61229]

Gregory Barker: The outcome of the DECC delivery review, announced in May this year, was that the Energy Saving Trust will cease to receive core grant funding from DECC at the end of this financial year. EST is an independent body and its future direction and operations are a matter for its board and management.

The Government are currently developing the Green Deal, an ambitious market-driven energy efficiency retrofit scheme which will be launched in 2012. The Green Deal will have a contact centre to provide energy saving advice to the general public from next year.

Energy: Conservation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for UK energy efficiency companies of the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ruling of 15 March 2011 on market-based demand response compensation for negawatts. [61023]

Charles Hendry: The US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ruling puts in place an innovative measure to ensure demand response receives a price comparable to generation. The Government are considering how demand response can be incentivised through the capacity mechanism as part of the Electricity Market Reform programme. In addition, the Electricity Market Reform White Paper will discuss barriers to demand response and will set out a high-level strategy on networks and system flexibility which will include our work programme on demand response.

Energy: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what the terms of reference are of his Department's joint working group with the Ministry of Defence on improving the energy efficiency of service family accommodation; [60981]

(2) who the members are of his Department's joint working group with the Ministry of Defence on improving the energy efficiency of service family accommodation; [60982]

(3) what timetable he has set for the completion of the work of his Department's joint working group with the Ministry of Defence on improving the energy efficiency of service family accommodation. [60983]

Gregory Barker: The joint working group is currently being established. The membership will include officials from all relevant Government Departments, including the Ministry of Defence's defence infrastructure organisation. The group's terms of reference and work

plan will need to be agreed at the first meeting, which will take place in July and we will send these to my hon. Friend.

I would expect the recommendations of the group to be set out in the consultation document on the Green Deal to be published this autumn.

Energy: Prices

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he last met representatives of Scottish Power to discuss gas and electricity prices; [59312]

(2) what discussions he plans to have with Scottish Power on proposed price rises for gas and electricity. [59653]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means rough and tough competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its retail market review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices, consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

Government are also taking a range of actions to increase people's control over their energy bills through energy efficiency, including the Green Deal, and better information.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60690]

Gregory Barker: The stock of EU legislation in force is set out in the Eur-Lex database:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would be of disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation were currently the responsibility of DECC or its predecessor Departments.

The Department has not identified any Council directives first entering into force after 1 April 2010 for which DECC has primary responsibility. The entry into force date for a directive is usually specified in the directive as being a certain number of days following its publication in the *Official Journal* of the European Union.

Green Deal Scheme: Apprentices

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(b)* the Department for Education on a Green Deal apprenticeship scheme. [61360]

Gregory Barker: I can confirm that the Department continues to have regular discussions with both Departments. We are keen to ensure that we can make best use of the funding the coalition has made available for apprenticeships to help re-skill existing and future workers to so they can benefit from the huge opportunities the Green Deal will bring.

I can also confirm that my officials are in regular discussion with the Sector Skills Councils to identify the skills gaps and ensure that training provision will be available where there is the demand from industry.

Natural Gas: Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the carbon footprint of shale gas and related extraction processes. [61459]

Charles Hendry: Emissions from shale gas extraction processes will be determined by the design and conditions of a particular development and no development has been proposed for the UK.

However, provided that good practice is adhered to, particularly in the control of fugitive emissions of methane, shale gas should have a carbon footprint of the same order as natural gas from conventional onshore fields, and significantly lower than that of other hydrocarbon sources including coal.

I note that a recent report by the International Energy Authority entitled "Are We Entering A Golden Age For Gas" assessed well-to-burner emissions from unconventional gas, for the particular circumstances they considered and in the "non venting" case, as only slightly higher than from conventional gas, with the combustion of gas being the dominant source of emissions.

Radioactive Waste

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average unit cost is of disposal of spent fuel from existing nuclear power stations per tonne of uranium; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent figure for the proposed future generation of nuclear power stations. [60549]

Charles Hendry: There is not yet an operational geological disposal facility (GDF) in the UK. Therefore no spent fuel from existing power stations has yet been disposed of and an actual cost figure for the disposal of spent fuel from existing nuclear power stations is not available.

For the purposes of estimating the likely disposal cost of spent fuel from new nuclear power stations, the NDA has provided DECC with estimates of the costs of a GDF, covering both the fixed construction costs of the facility and the variable costs of disposing of a given quantity of waste.

These estimates were published by DECC in the December 2010 "Consultation on an updated Waste Transfer Pricing Methodology for higher activity wastes from new nuclear power stations", available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/new/waste_costs/waste_costs.aspx

Based on NDA's data DECC derived a current best estimate of the cost of disposing of spent fuel from a new nuclear power station of £312,000/tU.

Radioactivity

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure radiation level monitoring results such as gamma spectrometry tests from the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network and the Health Protection Agency are available publicly without recourse to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [60845]

Charles Hendry: Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network (RIMNET) data are currently published on the European Radiological Data Exchange Platform website

http://eurdep.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

Following the Fukushima incident, the HPA, Environment Agency (EA), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have also jointly been providing updates of their monitoring findings via the HPA website

www.hpa.org.uk

Renewable Energy: Heating

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* ground source heat pumps and *(b)* air source heat pumps will be eligible for the renewable heat incentive premium payment. [59314]

Gregory Barker: Both these technologies will be included in the renewable heat premium payment scheme. Details on how the scheme will work will be announced shortly.

Solar Power: Housing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on regulations for the installation of solar photovoltaics in domestic properties. [61213]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), and the Department have not held recent discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government about the installation of solar photovoltaics in domestic properties.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with solar photovoltaic installers on regulations for the installation of solar photovoltaics in domestic properties. [61214]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has not held any discussions with solar PV installers about regulations for the installation of solar PV in domestic properties.

MCS certification is required by all installer companies installing domestic solar PV eligible for feed-in tariffs.

Solar PV is eligible for permitted development.

THORP

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of the closure and clean-up of the THORP reprocessing plant following the leak of radioactive material in 2004-05. [59550]

Charles Hendry: The information requested is as follows:

	£000
Continued fixed cost for the incident related shutdown net of savings	68,780
Cost of clean-up	9,592
Insurance recovery	(41,500)
Net	36,872

Wind Power

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects wind powered generation to have reached commercial viability. [61146]

Charles Hendry: It is not possible to put a date on commercial viability, which depends on a number of factors, including the cost of fossil fuel, as well as the pace of deployment and innovation in offshore wind.

Wind Power: Noise

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the implications for *(a)* investment in and *(b)* the number of wind turbine sites of setting the noise limit threshold for wind turbines below 45 decibels. [60922]

Charles Hendry: The indicative maximum noise level of a wind farm at 350 metres (1,150 feet) is usually roughly comparable to the sound of leaves rustling in a gentle breeze. The method of assessing the noise impact of a wind farm locally is described in "The assessment and rating of noise from wind farms", ETSU-R-97, by the Working Group on Noise from Wind Turbines for the Department of Trade and Industry. We have no plans to change the noise limits that ETSU-R-97 recommends, and will shortly publish a report which investigates matters arising in the consideration of noise impacts in the determination of wind farm planning applications in England.

Wind Power: Subsidies

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will make it his policy to reduce the level of subsidy to wind-powered generation as it approaches commercial viability; [61143]

(2) if he will make it his policy to reduce the level of subsidy for wind power in each successive year. [61145]

Charles Hendry: Legislation provides that a review of renewables obligation (RO) support levels for all technologies may be commenced in October 2010 and then at four-yearly intervals.

These reviews ensure that as market conditions and innovation within sectors change and evolve, developers continue to receive the appropriate level of support necessary to maintaining investment in the renewables industry, while providing value for money to the consumer.

Such a review is currently under way. We will consult on the new bands this summer, with the Government response published in late autumn. Any changes in support levels will be come into effect on 1 April 2013 (1 April 2014 for offshore wind).

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been started in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Worcester since May 2010. [60766]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship programme starts in Worcestershire local education authority and Worcester parliamentary constituency between 1 May 2010 and 31 January, the latest date for which we have data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in Worcester local education authority and Worcester constituency, 1 May 2010 and 31 January

	2009/10	*2010/11*		*Total*
	May 2010 to July 2010	*August 2010 to October 2010*	*November 2010 to January 2011*	*May 2010 to January 2011*
Worcestershire local education authority	580	1,140	850	2,560
Worcester constituency	110	180	120	400

Notes:
1. All Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 31 March:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Apprenticeships data will be updated in a Statistical First Release published on 23 June, also available at this website.

Business: Loans

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 391W, on business: loans, what effects he expects the *(a)* stretch and *(b)* capacity lending targets to have on small and medium-sized businesses; and if he will make a statement; [60603]

(2) at what level his Department has set stretch lending targets as part of the Project Merlin agreement; and how those levels were determined. [60604]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The Merlin target that was agreed with banks is £190 billion of gross new lending to UK corporates, including lending of £76 billion to small and medium-sized enterprises. The banks will be judged against these published and agreed numbers. Figures published in May by the Bank of England show that the UK's five largest banks lent £16.8 billion to UK small and medium enterprises in the first quarter of this year.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what lending targets the Government have agreed with the banking industry as part of the Project Merlin agreement; [60617]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 391-2W on business: loans, what assessment his Department has made of the effects on lending to small and medium-sized enterprises of banks which are party to the Project Merlin agreement meeting the stretch targets, but failing to meet the capacity targets; [60618]

(3) whether the banks which are party to the Project Merlin agreement will be judged against the *(a)* stretch or *(b)* capacity targets. [60619]

Mr Prisk: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

The Merlin target that was agreed with banks is £190 billion of gross new lending to UK corporates, including lending of £76 billion to small and medium-sized enterprises. The banks will be judged against these published and agreed numbers. Figures published in May by the Bank of England show that the UK's five largest banks lent £16.8 billion to UK small and medium enterprises in the first quarter of this year.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 391-2W on business: loans, what the definition is of the *(a)* stretch and *(b)* capacity target agreed as part of the Project Merlin agreement. [60620]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The "stretch" targets were the Merlin banks' initial assessment of what extra they could lend in 2011 compared with 2010.

The Government were not satisfied that these were sufficiently ambitious and pushed them to set a more demanding target—which was what was agreed and published in the Merlin agreement, which stated:

"That will put in place for 2011 new committed lending capacity of £76bn for UK small and medium sized businesses, which is materially higher than both the actual gross new lending delivered by the five banks in 2010 of £66bn and the banks' revised expectations for 2011."

Employment

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of businesses on increasing

levels of employment among the middle-aged; and if he will make a statement. [60152]

Mr Davey: We have had no direct discussions with business representatives on this question. However, as part of our Growth Review, the Government are taking a number of steps to ensure that the labour market operates efficiently and fairly, and that it promotes economic growth and employment opportunities for people of all ages.

Through the Department for Work and Pension's Age Positive initiative we are working with key business leaders to drive forward sustained improvements in the employment, training and retention of older workers. As the legislated Default Retirement Age is phased out in 2011, we are providing guidance to help employers manage their workforces without the use of compulsory retirement ages. We are also helping to develop and embed effective practices including flexible working and flexible retirement opportunities.

Export Credit Guarantees

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on export credit agreements. [61445]

Mr Davey: Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) officials attend regular meetings on export credit policy and practice with European Export Credit Agencies usually under the aegis of the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the reporting requirements for export credit agreements. [61446]

Mr Davey: Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) publicly reports on its activities and financial performance in its annual report and accounts. The latest copy for the financial year 2009-10 is held in the Libraries of the House. The annual report and accounts for 2010-11 will be published before the summer parliamentary recess. Pursuant to its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act, ECGD also operates a publication scheme which can be found at its website at:

www.ecgd.gov.uk

Higher Education: Admissions

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to use mobile application technology to engage with prospective university students. [60879]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Directgov campaign website for the Department's communications campaign about reforms to student finance

www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture

has been specifically optimised to be accessible to mobile phone users.

The Student Loans Company is currently considering the development of a mobile application as part of its future communications activity.

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department plans to provide to universities on the tuition fees of students who initially fail to attain the necessary grade for admission to their first choice university in 2011 but who subsequently attain the required grades following a re-mark and are accordingly offered a deferred place for 2012 entry. [60441]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* It is a matter for individual higher education institutions (HEIs) to decide whether they wish to charge a student the maximum amount allowed for tuition in such circumstances. We would expect an HEI to make clear to the student the level of tuition charge that would apply if they enter in 2012/13 so that the student can take this into account in deciding whether to accept a deferred place.

Whatever they are charged, eligible students will be able to access a loan to fully meet the cost of tuition, up to the maximum allowed.

If an eligible student decides to defer entry to 2012/13 they will be able access the new, more generous package of student support. Students from the lowest income households will be able to get more non-repayable grant for living costs than under the current system and almost all full-time students will get more overall support for living costs than they do now.

Higher Education: Science

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pupils from *(a)* state schools and *(b)* independent schools applied to study (i) science, (ii) technology, (iii) engineering and (iv) mathematics subjects at universities in each of the last five years for which data are available. [59512]

Mr Willetts: Information on applicants to higher education to science, technology, engineering and mathematics degree courses by school type is included in the following table and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants domiciled in England to science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects by previous school type

	Science				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
State schools	30,904	32,160	33,692	35,188	37,795
Independent schools	6,943	7,212	7,394	8,040	8,353
HE, FE and other	32,213	36,687	36,822	39,090	46,159
Total	70,060	76,059	77,908	82,318	92,307

	Technology				
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
State schools	8,422	8,244	8,513	9,299	8,659

	Technology				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Independent schools	1,019	1,027	1,027	1,117	974
HE, FE and other	15,563	17,830	17,941	19,500	21,477
Total	25,004	27,101	27,481	29,916	31,110

	Engineering				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State schools	7,537	7,393	7,654	8,508	8,221
Independent schools	1,933	1,898	2,060	2,107	2,222
HE, FE and other	8,830	10,462	10,499	11,540	12,862
Total	18,300	19,753	20,213	22,155	23,305

	Mathematics				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
State schools	3,823	4,353	4,587	5,229	5,296
Independent schools	831	873	987	996	953
HE, FE and other	2,403	2,632	2,827	3,100	3,451
Total	7,057	7,858	8,401	9,325	9,700

Notes:
1. "State schools" includes comprehensive, grammar and other state schools up to the age of 18 years old.
2. "Independent schools" includes independent schools up to the age of 18 years old.
3. 'HE,FE and other' includes applicants from further education (including sixth form colleges), higher education institutions and other centres (including those that do not fit in to the major groupings including those applied directly to UCAS, adult college and centres, prisons, language schools).
4. Subjects have been identified using the following subject groups and lines:
Science: B1—Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology,
B2—Pharmacology Toxicology and Pharmacy, B8—Medical Technology, Group C;
Biological Sciences, D7—Agricultural Sciences, Group F Physical Sciences;
Technology: G4—Computer Science, G5—Information Systems, G6—Software Engineering, G7—Artificial Intelligence, Group J Technologies;
Engineering: Group H Engineering;
Mathematics: G1—Mathematics, G2—Operational Research, G3—Statistics.
5. Applicants included in these figures have applied for at least one course from these subjects.
6. Applicants may appear in one more than one subject group if their application includes choices to more than one of these subject groups.
7. Applicants can make up to five separate choices on their application form.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 570W, on higher education: Sunderland, what proportion of *(a)* applicants and *(b)* accepted applicants resident in Sunderland Central constituency were from disadvantaged backgrounds in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [60383]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Sunderland Central constituency by area background 2009/10

Area background	Applicants	% of total	Accepted applicants	% of total
Disadvantaged[1]	409	51	306	51
Other	391	49	299	49
Grand total	800	100	605	100

Source:
UCAS

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Sunderland Central constituency by area background 2010/11

Area background	Applicants	% of total	Accepted applicants	% of total
Disadvantaged[1]	497	53	358	53
Other	448	47	319	47
Grand total	945	100	677	100

[1] For the purposes of their funding allocations, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as "disadvantaged": http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/
HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage which are based on the historic levels of participation or qualification in higher education by the local population: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in higher education (HE) (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults in the area who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because this table includes applicants and accepted applicants of all ages disadvantage is defined by the HE qualified adults measure.
Source:
UCAS

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 570W, on higher education: Sunderland, what proportion of *(a)* applicants and *(b)* accepted applicants resident in Sunderland Central constituency were aged over 30 in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [60384]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following tables and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Sunderland Central constituency by age 2009/10

Age range	Applicants	% of total	Accepted applicants	% of total
29 and under	721	90	559	92
30 and over	79	10	46	8
Grand total	800	100	605	100

Source:
UCAS

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from Sunderland Central constituency by age 2010/11

Age range	Applicants	% of total	Accepted applicants	% of total
29 and under	861	91	628	93
30 and over	84	9	49	7
Grand total	945	100	677	100

Source:
UCAS

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions he has met the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss the establishment of a national representative body for local enterprise partnerships; and on what date such meetings took place. [58218]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* There have been discussions between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government about the need for a network but there have been no meetings between the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), on this specific issue.

Origin Marking: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice his Department has issued to trading standards officers on origin labelling for consumer goods produced in Israeli settlements. [60670]

Mr Davey: There is no general requirement in the United Kingdom or the European Union law for goods to bear marks indicating their origin, nor is there anything to prevent voluntary origin marking. However, where such marks are applied to goods, the consumer protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 requires that these marks are not false or misleading. The regulations also prohibit traders from omitting material information which the average consumer needs, according to the context, to make an informed choice.

This Department and the Office of Fair Trading have issued general guidance on how we expect the regulations to operate in practice. This would apply to the accuracy of voluntary origin labelling of consumer goods produced in Israeli settlements.

Public Holidays: St George's Day

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will consider the merits of establishing St George's day as a bank holiday. [61017]

Mr Davey: The Government regularly receive requests to consider making changes to the pattern of bank holidays.

Although the current pattern of holidays is well established, in order to come to a full understanding as to whether the current arrangements are best for the country, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced in the recent Tourism Strategy that it would carry out a pre-consultation on the issue.

The pre-consultation ended on 9 June and examined a range of options, including the possible movement of the May day bank holiday to St George's day in England and St David's day in Wales. Interested parties were encouraged to submit their representations on this matter to ensure all relevant opinions were available during this process. Responses are being assimilated and results are expected later this summer.

Small Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of small businesses were engaged in innovation in each year since 2005. [61120]

Mr Willetts: These data are not available on an annual basis—data come from the UK Innovation Survey, carried out every two years and covering a three- year period. The latest survey covered the period 2006-08. Over this period, 85,971 small firms reported being innovation active, representing 57.3% of the population of small firms.

An innovation active firm is defined as a business that was a product or process innovator, had ongoing or abandoned innovation projects, or, had invested in activities related to innovation.

A small firm is defined as one with 10 to 49 employees.

The UK Innovation Survey, part of the wider Community Innovation Survey, is carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on behalf of this Department. It seeks to understand business innovation and the conditions that help or hinder it.

Unsolicited Goods and Services: Telephones

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have to regulate the operation of unsolicited automated outbound telemarketing messages which present themselves as public information messages rather than commercial marketing messages. [59536]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

Companies that make recorded calls to sell or promote their product or business have to comply with Regulation 19 (1) and (2) of the Privacy Regulations, which require that prior consent of the consumer has to be obtained before such calls can be made. Also, Regulation 24 (1) (a) states that all messages must include the identity of the caller and an address or free phone number at which the caller can be contacted. Where a consumer receives an automated call they have not agreed to, or has registered their number with the Telephone Preference Service, there may have been a breach of the regulations.

Therefore, if at any time a public information message turns into a marketing message then would be a breach of the regulations.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for considering complaints about possible breaches and it is able to issue a penalty of up to £500,000 for the most serious breaches of the regulations.

EDUCATION

Academies

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of progress on the academies programme in *(a)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(b)* Hastings and *(c)* East Sussex. [59056]

Mr Gibb: As of 9 June 2011, two schools in the Hastings and Rye constituency and 27 schools in East Sussex have registered an interest in becoming an academy. Of these, neither of the schools in the Hastings and Rye constituency has submitted an application; one school, Ringmer community college, in East Sussex has submitted an application and been issued an Academy Order. We have received no registrations of interest to become academies from schools in Hastings.

Eastbourne Academy in East Sussex opened as a sponsored academy in 2010. In addition, Filsham Valley school, the Grove school and Hillcrest school in East Sussex are planned to open as two sponsored academies in September 2011.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11 can be found on the Department for Education Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Academies: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding is available for new academies; and what criteria his Department uses for assessment of applications in the Academies Capital Building Programme. [60219]

Mr Gibb: New academies are given annual revenue funding on an equivalent basis as maintained schools in their local authority area. In addition, maintained schools converting to an academy receive £25,000 to help them with the costs of conversion.

More money is available to under-performing schools which become an academy with the assistance of a sponsor, including a small capital grant to help them make improvements to the school environment as part of their transformation. Other capital funding is also available to academies:

(a) A small amount devolved to all academies, allocated on the basis of a per school and per pupil formula, equivalent to funds available for maintained schools. Most academies are being paid this year's allocation in June.

(b) An £85 million fund for 2011-12, targeted mainly towards academies' building condition needs, for which the first round of applications closed on 27 May. Those applications are being assessed against three main criteria: the outputs to be achieved through the proposed project, whether the proposal represents good value for money, and the extent to which the project can be delivered on budget and on time to ensure this year's grant is spent in the current financial year. Academies which have applied in the first round will be notified shortly of the outcome,

(c) Capital funding to meet the basic need for additional pupil places due to local demographic changes. A total of £800 million has been allocated to local authorities in 2011-12, to be used to address this basic need across all Government-funded schools, including academies. £30 million has been made available to the Young People's Learning Agency, for allocation where there is a similar basic need for additional post-16-year-old places, including in academies.

Academies: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* achieved academy status in North East Hertfordshire constituency; and if he will make a statement on the timetable for decisions on any outstanding applications. [60511]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 June, five schools in North East Hertfordshire have applied to convert to academy status. Of these, the Knights Templar has opened as an academy in April 2011. The remaining four schools—Freman college, Roysia middle school, Greneway school and Meridian school—are currently in the conversion process and expecting to open as academies in August 2011. Roysia, Greneway and Meridian schools are applying together to form a chain under a multi-academy trust arrangement.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the DfE Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

Academies: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Skipton and Ripon constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber have applied to become academies. [60262]

Mr Gibb: As of 1 June 2011 three schools in the Skipton and Ripon constituency have applied to become academies; 10 have applied in North Yorkshire and 98 have applied in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Full details of schools that have formally applied for academy status, as well as a list of academies that have opened in the academic year 2010/11, can be found on the Department for Education Academies website at:

http://www.education.gov.Uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schoots-submitting-applications-and-academies-that-have-opened-in-201011

James Review

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the James review of capital investment in schools. [58990]

Mr Gibb: The Government will respond to the Capital review soon. However we are already implementing changes that are very much in the spirit of the Capital review recommendations, and which will help deliver the buildings and facilities that children need. These include focusing the available funding on providing new school places where they are needed, and on the buildings in the worst condition; getting the best value for money from our existing Building Schools for the Future commitments and other projects; and considering how the school premises regulations can be simplified so as to remove unnecessary burdens and blockages.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of children eligible for the pupil premium if it were extended to include those who have lost a parent serving in the armed forces. [58227]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 June 2011]:* The Government have introduced a premium for children whose parents are serving in the armed forces. For 2011-12 the premium has been set at £200 per pupil. Funding for this year will be provided for each pupil recorded on the January 2011 School Census as a service child who is in year groups Reception to Year 11 in mainstream schools. It is not possible to make an estimate of the number of children who have lost a parent serving in the armed forces as the Department does not record these data.

Schools: Construction

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of schools required to be built to meet population growth in each of the next five years. [59223]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. The Department will continue to provide capital funding and monitor the situation with local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places.

The Department does collect information from each local authority on school capacity in maintained schools through an annual survey, which includes local authorities' own pupil forecasts. The most recent survey data relate to the position at May 2010 and are available on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000982/index.shtml

We can only estimate the level of demand for school places. It cannot be determined by pupil forecasts alone as other local factors have an influence; for example, changes to school capacity and spare school places. The survey data indicate that there will be a need for an additional 260,000 primary places and 60,000 secondary places nationally over the next five years. We are unable to determine how many schools will actually need to be built to meet the population growth over the next five years. This is a local matter and will be dependent on the needs of the local community.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airports: Security

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the effects on those travelling by air of the sale of goods by private companies related to regulations on the transport of liquids on commercial flights. [59955]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not received any representations on the effects of those travelling by air of the sale of goods by private companies related to regulations on the transport of liquids on commercial flights.

Cycling: Theft

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department is taking to promote awareness of cycle crime; [59814]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to reduce the theft of bicycles. [59815]

James Brokenshire: It is for police forces to tackle the problem of bicycle theft in areas where this is a particular problem for the local community. This involves not only enforcement action but also effective crime prevention advice to the public on measures to secure their belongings.

Harassment

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were charged under Section *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3, *(c)* 4 and *(d)* 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 reached trial in each of the last 10 years; and in how many cases the person was found guilty. [60839]

Mr Blunt: Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, in England and Wales, 2000 to 2010 can be viewed in the table.

Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection From Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales 2000-10[1, 2]

		2000[3]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009[5]	2010[6]
Section 2	Proceeded against	5,977	5,873	5,843	5,891	5,974	5,679	5,447	5,134	5,046	5,448	6,108
	Found guilty	2,933	2,806	2,864	3,020	3,348	3,635	3,768	3,745	3,931	4,368	4,740
Section 3	Proceeded against	40	31	44	50	42	25	34	71	99	65	68
	Found guilty	22	14	23	22	18	14	15	25	47	27	29
Section 4	Proceeded against	1,752	1,651	1,601	1,593	1,494	1,592	1,512	1,306	1,352	1,519	1,465
	Found guilty	574	590	639	674	717	806	875	814	839	787	797
Section 5	Proceeded against	802	776	847	900	991	1,129	1,108	884	1,177	1,618	3,349
	Found guilty	557	539	604	687	766	880	873	738	821	1,464	2,921

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However. It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April. July and August 2008.
[5] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
[6] The following offence came into force on 30 September 2009: Breach of a Restraining Order issued on acquittal—Section 5A
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria her Department uses to identify victims of human trafficking. [61150]

Damian Green: Trained specialists in designated "competent authorities" make decisions about whether an individual is a victim of trafficking. Competent authorities consider the criteria that is specified in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings definition of trafficking.

Detailed information on the consideration procedure can be found in the UK Border Agency's Competent Authority guidance, a copy of which I will place in the Library. It is also available on the UKBA website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/competent-guidance

Nosratollah Tajik

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects former Iranian diplomat Nosratollah Tajik to return to Iran. [61163]

Damian Green: Nosratollah Tajik is the subject of an extradition request from the United States. He has made representations to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), which are currently being considered.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police officers who are to be drafted in from other police forces in the UK for the purposes of policing the London 2012 Olympics. [61132]

James Brokenshire: Security preparations for the 2012 games are progressing to schedule, including gaining clarity on mutual aid requirements and logistics. We are working closely with the Police Federation and staff associations on all these issues. The number of police officers who will need to be deployed on Olympic safety and security duties varies considerably across the 64 days of the games period, from the opening to the closing of the athletes' village.

Work has been done to provide an estimate of mutual aid officers needed across the country on a peak day. Current planning suggests that the maximum number of officers who will be required on days of peak demand is 10,000. Of these, it is estimated that around 8,000 will be supplied by the police forces of the areas hosting the events, meaning that around 2,000 will need to be provided by other police forces through mutual aid arrangements. We currently estimate that 72,000 mutual aid shifts are required across this period, though this figure may be subject to change.

Funding arrangements for Olympic and Paralympic mutual aid are intended to ensure that lending forces are fully reimbursed for the officers they supply, avoiding any diminution of the overall resources available to the lending forces and ensuring that policing can be maintained across the UK as a whole during games-time.

Stop and Search: Terrorism

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stops under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 were carried out at *(a)* Glasgow International, *(b)* Glasgow Prestwick, *(c)* Edinburgh International and *(d)* Aberdeen Airport in each year since 2007. [61341]

James Brokenshire: The release of detailed statistics on the operational use of schedule 7 at a specific location could be of use to terrorists or others wishing to harm national security. It would allow comparison of varying levels of schedule 7 activity at different ports. Therefore it is not appropriate to provide information that may indicate the deployment of police resources and we are not therefore able to provide this information.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the ethnicity of those requested to participate in a stop under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 at *(a)* Glasgow International, *(b)* Glasgow Prestwick, *(c)* Edinburgh International and *(d)* Aberdeen Airport in each year since 2007. [61342]

James Brokenshire: Information on the ethnicity of those examined at specific locations is not held by the Home Office.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for terrorism-related offences were made at Scottish airports as a result of stops under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since 2007. [61343]

James Brokenshire: No arrests are understood to have been made for terrorism-related offences immediately following a schedule 7 examination at Scottish airports for the period April 2009 to March 2010, based on information supplied by the police service. However, for operational reasons the police may decide it is more appropriate to arrest an individual once the schedule 7 examination has been concluded and such arrests are not recorded as being related to schedule 7.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for terrorism-related offences as a result of stops at Scottish airports under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 conducted in each year since 2007. [61344]

James Brokenshire: Information on the number of convictions resulting from examinations is not held by the Home Office.

UK Border Agency

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is at UK Border Agency desks in *(a)* Heathrow terminal 4 and *(b)* other Heathrow terminals for those (i) with and (ii) without EU passports; and what the equivalent figures were in each of the last 24 months. [60561]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency constantly strives to provide a high standard of customer service at the border and is committed to expediting the entry of legitimate passengers and trade that help build the UK economy while at the same time maintaining a secure border.

As a demonstration of the importance we place on passenger clearance times, our targets and performance against them will be published this year (2011-12) as part of the Government transparency agenda. This will enable members of the public to be fully sighted on average passenger clearance times, based on samples taken across the UK's ports and airports. Our current target is to clear 95% of EEA passengers within 25 minutes of joining the queue and non EEA passengers within 45 minutes. Current year to date performance sits at 98% and performance is closely monitored to ensure that deployment of resource is flexed to deal with increases in traffic and maintain overall passenger clearance times while ensuring the border remains secure.

While we do not measure performance against average waiting times we do record them and the details requested are provided in the following tables:

Heathrow terminal 1: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:00
May	0:00
June	0:01
July	0:02
August	0:02
September	0:02
October	0:01
November	0:01
December	0:01
2010	
January	0:01
February	0:01
March	0:02
Average	0:02

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:06
August	0:08
September	0:07
October	0:07
November	0:06
December	0:04
2011	
January	0:04
February	0:03
March	0:03
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 1: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:05

Heathrow terminal 1: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
August	0:04
September	0:06
October	0:03
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:02
March	0:03
Average	0:03

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:05
May	0:05
June	0:07
July	0:13
August	0:15
September	0:17
October	0:15
November	0:12
December	0:09
2011	
January	0:10
February	0:08
March	0:09
Average	0:06

Heathrow terminal 2: EEA passengers

2009-10

2009	*Average queue time*
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:01
July	0:01
August	0:01
September	0:01
October	0:01
November	0:00
Average	0:02

Heathrow terminal 2: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

2009	*Average queue time*
April	0:03
May	0:03
June	0:03
July	0:04
August	0:05
September	0:05
October	0:02
November	0:01
Average	0:02

Immigration operations ceased at Heathrow terminal 2 in November 2009, due to refurbishment.

Heathrow terminal 3: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:04
May	0:03
June	0:04
July	0:05
August	0:06
September	0:06
October	0:03
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:02
March	0:03
Average	0:04

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:03
May	0:03
June	0:04
July	0:05
August	0:05
September	0:06
October	0:04
November	0:04
December	0:04
2011	
January	0:05
February	0:05
March	0:06
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 3: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:08
May	0:10
June	0:13

Heathrow terminal 3: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
July	0:15
August	0:15
September	0:23
October	0:11
November	0:06
December	0:05
2010	
January	0:08
February	0:07
March	0:08
Average	0:11

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:11
May	0:11
June	0:14
July	0:16
August	0:14
September	0:22
October	0:13
November	0:10
December	0:09
2011	
January	0:12
February	0:11
March	0:13
Average	0:18

Heathrow terminal 4: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:02
May	0:02
June	0:02
July	0:02
August	0:02
September	0:02
October	0:02
November	0:02
December	0:02
2010	
January	0:02
February	0:01
March	0.02
Average	0:02

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:04
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:04
August	0:03
September	0:04
October	0:03
November	0:03
December	0:03
2011	
January	0:03
February	0:03
March	0:03
Average	0:04

Heathrow terminal 4: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:06
May	0:06
June	0:08
July	0:09
August	0:07
September	0:13
October	0:13
November	0:07
December	0:07
2010	
January	0:10
February	0:06
March	0:10
Average	0:09

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:16
May	0:13
June	0:18
July	0:22
August	0:10
September	0:23
October	0:14
November	0:13
December	0:15
2011	
January	0:19
February	0:16
March	0:19
Average	0:17

Heathrow terminal 5: EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:03
May	0:02
June	0:03
July	0:03
August	0:04
September	0:04
October	0:04
November	0:03
December	0:04
2010	
January	0:03
February	0:04
March	0:03
Average	0:04

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:05
May	0:04
June	0:05
July	0:05
August	0:06
September	0:06
October	0:05
November	0:05
December	0:05
2011	
January	0:05
February	0:06
March	0:05
Average	0:05

Heathrow terminal 5: Non-EEA passengers

2009-10

	Average queue time
2009	
April	0:07
May	0:07
June	0:09
July	0:13
August	0:12
September	0:18
October	0:14
November	0:11
December	0:12
2010	
January	0.12
February	0.12
March	0.11
Average	0.12

2010-11

	Average queue time
2010	
April	0:18
May	0:14
June	0:18
July	0:22
August	0:18
September	0:24
October	0:16
November	0:17
December	0:17
2011	
January	0:19
February	0:18
March	0:15
Average	0:18

Victim Support Schemes

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to co-locate social services, victim support services, primary care trusts and the police in order to improve the service provided to adults and children at risk. [60892]

James Brokenshire: The Government recognise the value of multi-agency arrangements, including the widely held view that multi-agency working brings real benefits to protecting children and vulnerable adults.

The Department of Health published a statement of Government policy on safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse on 16 May 2011. This includes a statement of principles for use by local authority social services and housing, health, the police and other agencies, in order to develop and assess the effectiveness of their local safeguarding arrangements. One of these principles is partnership—local solutions through services working with their communities.

The Government understand that when local people get involved, communities can do things differently. We need local authorities and local multi-agency partnerships to provide leadership in moving to less risk-averse ways of working, and to concentrate on outcomes instead of focusing on compliance. Local multi-agency partnerships should support and encourage communities to find local solutions. These solutions will be different in different places, reflecting, for example, local demographics and environmental characteristics.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has recently led targeted work to identify good practice arrangements being delivered locally, in order to enhance safeguarding through stronger partnership working, including co-located models. ACPO has produced advice to forces to make these good practice models and their benefits available nationally.

At the national level, the recently-published Munro Review of Child Protection highlighted a number of examples of good practice, including those where multi-agency teams are co-located in one office. Co-location

was considered essential in order for the process to work, being the most effective means of building relationships, trust and understanding between agencies, in order to enhance confidence in sharing information.

The Government are currently considering their response to Professor Munro's report.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each local authority area are on the violent and sex offender register; and how many people were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the register in each year for which figures are available. [61199]

Lynne Featherstone: The data required to answer this question fully are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The total number of registered sex offenders residing within each of the 42 police authority areas in England and Wales is detailed within the published annual MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Reports. The report for 2009-10 is available online at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http:/www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mappa.htm

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people on the violent and sex offender register were convicted of further *(a)* sexual offences, *(b)* sexual offences against children and *(c)* violent offences after being placed on the register; [61200]

(2) how many people on the violent and sex offender register have committed *(a)* offences against women, *(b)* offences against children and *(c)* multiple offences against women and children; [61201]

(3) how many people on the violent and sex offender register live in a household with a person under the age of 18; [61202]

(4) how many people on the violent and sex offender register have served custodial sentences of *(a)* less than one year, *(b)* one to five years and *(c)* more than five years; [61203]

(5) how many people on the violent and sex offender register are employed in jobs where they have contact with *(a)* children and *(b)* at risk groups. [61205]

Lynne Featherstone: The data requested are not collected in the format requested and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many people on the violent and sex offender register *(a)* there are no up-to-date address details and *(b)* their current address is recorded as unknown. [61204]

Lynne Featherstone: As of 20 June 2011, there are 211 registered sex offenders who do not have a recorded address on ViSOR and 109 offenders who have an address recorded as "no fixed abode".

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have applied to be removed from the violent and sex offender register in each year for which figures are available. [61206]

Lynne Featherstone: Sex offenders subject to notification requirements cannot currently apply to discontinue these requirements.

Visas

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what year her Department used as a baseline to determine the visa allocations to companies who request intra-company transfers in respect of the most recent year for which information is available; for what reasons that year was chosen; what methodology her Department used to calculate visa allotments; and how many requests it *(a)* received and *(b)* granted in (i) that year and (ii) 2010. [60553]

Damian Green: No year was used as a baseline to determine Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) allocations for intra-company transfer (ICT) sponsors. Sponsors requesting a Tier 2 ICT sponsor licence indicate on their application how many CoS they require. The number allocated to each sponsor by the UK Border Agency is based on the number requested alongside a number of criteria, including business needs, previous compliance with immigration rules and historic usage.

It is not possible to provide information on the number of ICT CoS requested by sponsors as this information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of ICT CoS assigned by the UK Border Agency to sponsors in 2010 was 39,725 and the number used by sponsors during this period was 36,913.

Visas: Olympic Games 2012

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ensure that members of the Libyan and Syrian Governments do not use the Olympic visa scheme to visit London in 2012; and if she will make a statement. [61142]

Damian Green: Members of the Libyan and Syrian Governments, including their Heads of State, are subject to international travel bans and would not be able to travel to the EU to attend the Olympics.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of social value the big society bank will use in its disbursement of funds. [60925]

Mr Hurd: The purpose of the big society bank is to boost the ability of social enterprises, charities, and voluntary and community organisations to deal with a wide range of social issues by improving their access to appropriate capital.

In assessing investment decisions, the big society bank will therefore consider whether the investment will result in a better provision of financial services for VCSE (Voluntary and Community Social Enterprise) organisations, whether the investment will leverage additional capital into the sector, and whether the investment will enable social investment intermediaries to become more resilient and sustainable and better to develop and provide services to the sector in the long term.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the banking sector will play any role in the governance of the big society bank. [60926]

Mr Hurd: It is essential that the corporate governance arrangements of the big society bank are effective in ensuring that the big society bank remains true to its social mission and that dormant accounts are used to achieve social objectives. We are working closely with the team developing the big society bank to make certain that this is the case.

The exact terms of the £200 million investment in the big society bank by the four UK banks, including any potential role in the governance of the big society bank, are still being negotiated.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what types of capital for the big society bank will be contributed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays, HSBC and Lloyds Banking Group. [61228]

Mr Hurd: The banks are committed to investing in a way that is compatible with the big society bank's mission to help grow a sustainable social investment market and achieve returns against a double bottom line of social and financial returns.

The exact terms of this investment have yet to be finalised.

Charities: Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effect on the revenues of charities and voluntary groups of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review in each of the next four financial years. [60930]

Mr Hurd: The Government's programme of reform will create significant new opportunities for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector as we open up public service markets and make these markets more accessible to the sector.

Data are not available to enable us to forecast sector revenues over the next four years. However we continue to work closely with partners in the voluntary sector and across Government to support the sector through this transitional period and ensure it can continue its vital role in building big society. This includes measures to:

- Support the sector through the Transition, by investing £107 million in the Transition Fund to create breathing space for public service providers.
- Set out reasonable expectations of councils, to ensure local funding decisions are made wisely, and in conjunction with the sector.
- Develop the £200 million big society bank to help sector organisations access much needed additional resources and investment.
- Open up public services, incorporating consultation with sector organisations and commissioners on Modernising Commissioning.
- Increase giving of time and money, through measures set out in the Giving White Paper.

Mr Bain: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make an assessment of the effects of the Government's fiscal policies on charities and voluntary groups in each of the next four financial years. [60932]

Mr Hurd: Fiscal policy is a matter for HM Treasury. The 2011 Budget outlined a package of measures to support charities, encourage charitable giving and increase incentives for philanthropy. This includes measures to:

- Reduce the rate of inheritance tax to 36% for estates leaving 10% or more to charity, from April 2012;
- Increase the limit for "thank you" gifts under Gift Aid from £500 to £2,500 from April 2011;
- Introduce Gift Aid online filing to reduce bureaucracy for charities claiming Gift Aid in 2012-13;
- Introduce a new scheme to enable Gift Aid to be claimed on small donations without the paperwork in April 2013;
- Explore how to increase the take-up of Payroll Giving.

The Government anticipate that the combined effect of these measures will increase funding to charities by around £600 million over the lifetime of the Parliament.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60904]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office takes the protection and security of its data very seriously and takes a number of measures to ensure that sensitive information is protected when being displayed on visual display units (VDUs). These include strict rules regarding the use of IT equipment outside of the office (including when travelling/working overseas) and the use of mobile phones and similar devices both on and off its estate.

In addition, the Department's VDUs are programmed to go into "hibernation" if not activated within a short period of time; staff are instructed not to leave their units switched on when away from their desks; screens may be "anonymised" where considered necessary for those working inside and away from the office; and "privacy screen panels" are also available. The need to ensure visual data security is considered as part of any office accommodation moves.

Staff are trained regarding all aspects of data handling and security through a variety of ways including induction courses; regular briefing and training events; articles on the Department's intranet site; and ad hoc reminders as and when considered necessary.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will assess the effects on levels of economic growth of late payments by Government contractors to subcontractors. [60462]

Mr Maude: The Government recognise that late payment has detrimental effects, particularly on cash flow for SMEs, and are determined to do everything they can to transform the culture of late payment. That is why we have a target for central Government Departments to pay 80% of valid invoices within five working days of receipt, and why all new contracts must include a clause providing for 30-day payment from primes to sub-contractors.

We are also exploring ways to make performance against these objectives more transparent.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 998W, on the public sector: procurement, how many Government Departments have not yet published in full on their departmental websites details of contracts with a monetary value over £10,000. [53686]

Mr Maude: The latest report on departmental usage of the Contracts Finder system, dated 27 May, is published on the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/policy-and-guidance-transparency-public-sector-procurement-and-contracting

This showed:

five Departments had published all their new contracts;

14 Departments are in the process of preparing contracts for publication;

four Departments had not let any contracts.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the outsourcing overseas of contracts that Government Departments hold with private sector companies. [60682]

Mr Maude: The Government's procurement policy is to seek value for money for the public purse through fair competition in open markets, in line with our membership of the EU and other international agreements.

Of course the Government want companies and workers in the UK to benefit from public procurement opportunities, the vast bulk of which go to UK-based companies.

Mutual Societies

Chris Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many calls the Mutuals Information Service has received in each month since November 2010. [60827]

Mr Hurd: The Mutuals Information Service is provided by an independent organisation—Local Partnerships, working in partnership with Co-operatives UK and the Employee Ownership Association.

The Minister for the Cabinet Office announced the launch of the Mutuals Information Service on 17 November 2010 and Cabinet Office has continued to work closely with the providers of the service. We understand that around 250 new enquiries were received between the launch date and 31 March 2011.

Since the 31 March the monthly breakdown of new enquiries is as follows:

14 calls in April;

19 calls in May.

The Mutuals Information Service also receives enquiries and calls for information and advice following up from an original call. These are additional to the figures for new enquiries set out here.

Chris Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many calls the Mutuals Information Service received between 17 November 2010 and 30 March 2011. [60829]

Mr Hurd: The Mutuals Information Service is provided by an independent organisation—Local Partnerships, working in partnership with Co-operatives UK and the Employee Ownership Association.

he Minister for the Cabinet Office announced the launch of the Mutuals Information Service on 17 November 2010 and Cabinet Office has continued to work closely with the providers of the service. We understand that around 250 new enquiries were received between the launch date and 31 March 2011.

The Mutuals Information Service also receives enquiries and calls for information and advice following up from an original call. These are additional to the figures for new enquiries.

Third Sector

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many hours Ministers in his Department spent volunteering in the last 12 months as part of the Government's big society initiative. [61225]

Mr Hurd: There are no records held centrally.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many 16-year-olds in each region have registered to participate in National Citizen Service pilot projects. [61545]

Mr Hurd: National Citizen Service is taking place in a range of locations across England in its first pilot year, with over 10,000 places potentially available this summer. Data provided to the Cabinet Office by National Citizen Service delivery partners indicated that at 17 June the following numbers of young people had registered their details in each region.

	Number
North-east	6,922
North-west	4,716
Yorkshire and Humber	981
West midlands	7,433
East midlands	425
East of England	1,188
South-east	390
South-west	833
London	9,396
Total	32,284

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to extend the National Citizen Service to Wales. [61546]

Mr Hurd: The Government are piloting National Citizen Service in England in 2011 and 2012. Initial discussions have taken place with the Welsh Government to explore opportunities for the programme to be extended to Wales, and we will continue to work with the Welsh Government as the pilot phase of National Citizen Service progresses.

JUSTICE

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances the police may be granted a search warrant in respect of an individual charged under the provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [61026]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply.

The offences set out in sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 are indictable offences, for which search warrants can be sought under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The police can seek a search warrant under section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 by satisfying a magistrate of the conditions set out in section 8 (1) of that Act. Where the material sought by the police falls under the definition of "special procedure material" set out in section 14 of the 1984 Act, a warrant must be obtained from a circuit judge in accordance with the provisions of schedule 1 of that Act.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60913]

Mr Djanogly: We take the security of information seriously and ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act and for adherence with the Government's security policy framework, which incorporates the findings of the data handling review. We promote the visual security of data through our arrangements for information security within the office and our policy on remote working. We have issued guidance on working on documents, laptops and other mobile devices in public places and the risk of being overlooked. This includes urging staff to question whether they really need to take information out of the office and to obtain permission from a senior manager if this involves more sensitive information. This guidance is being given greater prominence in a forthcoming upgrade of our intranet pages, which will be promoted in a security awareness campaign.

All staff are required to undertake annual training in information security. The National School of Government's e-learning course covers the visual security risk of working in public places and is used for most staff. Staff in HM Courts and Tribunals service received face-to-face training tailored to their ways of working and so did not specifically address working outside the office.

Legal Aid

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil and criminal providers of legal aid have offices in North East Hertfordshire constituency. [60749]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) holds contracts with legal aid firms but each firm may provide services from several offices. There are five firms with postcodes falling within the North East Hertfordshire constituency providing civil services out of four offices and crime out of two.

In addition to face-to-face services, the public can get help with civil problems through Community Legal Advice which includes telephone and internet-based services.

Legal Costs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the evidential basis is for the conclusion of the equality impact assessment published alongside the Government's response to the Jackson proposals on civil litigation costs that the proposals will have no impact on human rights. [60833]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, introduced into the House of Commons on 21 June 2011 contains clauses which will implement these proposals. In accordance with section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998, the Secretary of State for Justice has confirmed that, in his view, the provisions of the Bill are compatible with the Convention rights.

Offences against Children: Sentencing

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was for unlawful sex with a minor in the last 12 months. [61455]

Mr Blunt: Defendants sentenced, given an immediate custodial sentence and the average custodial sentence length for sexual offences against a minor, England and Wales, 2010 can be viewed in the following table.

Defendants sentenced at all courts and the average custodial sentence length (months) for sexual offences against a minor[1], England and Wales, 2010[2,3]

Offence	*Total sentenced*	*Other sentences*	*Immediate custody*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)[4]*
Sexual offences against a minor	1,981	603	1,378	61.6

[1] Includes all offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 where the age of the victim can be determined from the Act (and where it is under 16) under which the offender was sentenced. This includes offences under Sections 1, 5-10 & 47 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of times police forces have not been informed of the release of offenders from prison on temporary licence in each of the last three years. [60887]

Mr Blunt: Prisons are expected to notify the police at least five days in advance of any release on temporary licence. Data on such notifications are not collected routinely and could not be established retrospectively except at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners did not complete an education or other rehabilitation course due to being released from custody in each of the last five years. [61194]

Mr Blunt: This information is not centrally collected and could be collected only at disproportionate cost. Prisoner education reflects that available in the community and part-completed courses in prison can be completed after release.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length was of skills, education and training courses provided to offenders in prison in the latest period for which figures are available. [61195]

Mr Blunt: This information is not centrally collected and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of persons sentenced to *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* more than two years in prison undertook an education, training or skills related course in each of the last five years; [61196]

(2) how many and what proportion of persons who have left custody after *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* more than two years in prison had completed an education, training or skills related course in prison in each of the last five years. [61197]

Mr Blunt: This information is not centrally collected and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of damage to each prison attributable to prisoners in each of the last five years. [61193]

Mr Blunt: Any occurrence of damage caused by prisoners is recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System. These incidents are in a format that cannot readily be interrogated electronically. To provide the information requested would involve the manual inspection of incident records for the last five years which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in how many cases where a person was charged under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 the *(a)* case was not proceeded with and *(b)* individual was acquitted; [61025]

(2) how many people received *(a)* a custodial sentence, *(b)* a fine, *(c)* a conditional discharge and *(d)* a supervision order following a charge under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in 2010. [61024]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons acquitted at all courts for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in England and Wales for 2010 was 559.

The number of persons sentenced and a breakdown of the outcomes at all courts for offences under the Harassment Act 1997, 2010 can be viewed in the table.

Information on cases charged which were subsequently not proceeded with is not collated by the Ministry of Justice.

Charging data are not collated centrally.

Persons sentenced at all courts for offences under the Harassment Act 1997, England and Wales, 2010[1, 2]

Outcome	*Number*
Sentenced	8,393
Conditional discharge	1,002
Fine	909
Immediate custody	1,606
Other sentences[3]	1,673
Community sentence	3,203
Of which:	
Supervision order	14

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes: Absolute discharge, Suspended sentence and Otherwise dealt with.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Youth Justice

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research the Youth Justice Board has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on the effects of reductions in youth offending teams since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [61456]

Mr Blunt: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has not undertaken formal research into the effects of reductions in youth offending teams (YOTs) since May 2010.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities in England and Wales have the statutory responsibility to establish a youth offending team to deliver youth justice services. Local areas are therefore required to ensure sufficient funding and staffing is available to deliver their youth justice responsibilities.

The YJB will continue to monitor and review YOTs to ensure that local authorities provide the support and resources they need to deliver their statutory responsibilities.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 23 June 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament's Education Service

Simon Hart: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many schools from *(a)* Carmarthenshire and *(b)* Pembrokeshire visited the Palace of Westminster through the Parliamentary Education Service in each year since 2009. [61549]

John Thurso: The number of schools from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire visiting the Palace of Westminster through Parliament's Education Service in each year since 2009 is as follows:

	Carmarthenshire	*Pembrokeshire*
2009	5	1
2010	1	1
2011 (to date)	1	1
2011 (future bookings)	4	1

The total number of students visiting the Palace of Westminster on these visits (including future bookings for 2011) is 513.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Billing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General how many invoices the Law Officers' Departments received in respect of goods or services supplied by tier 1 suppliers between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011; and how many of those invoices were not paid within the period of time specified in the Government's Fair Payment guidance. [55875]

The Attorney-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) does not keep separate records for payment performance related to construction industry suppliers, and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The total number of invoices received from all "tier 1 suppliers" (ie organisations supplying goods or services directly to the Department) from 1 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 was 34,692. The Department paid 87% in 30 days.

TSol data includes procurement for the Attorney-General's Office and the HM Crown Prosecution Services Inspectorate.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has a limited requirement for construction services and between 1 May 2010 and 1 April 2011 has not undertaken a project requiring a "Fair Payment Charter". Subsequently no invoices have been received for payment for such services. It is not possible separately to identify invoices that may involve a Tier 1 supplier without incurring disproportionate cost but during the period in question the CPS processed a total of 229,088 payments to suppliers and service providers, 85% of which were paid within 30 days.

The SFO does not have any contracts that fall within the terms of the Fair Payment guidance and the majority of their suppliers do not sub contract the work to others. It is not possible to separately identify which invoices may involve a Tier 1 supplier without incurring disproportionate cost. During the period in question, the SFO processed a total of 7,126 payments to general suppliers and service providers, 93% of which were paid within 30 days.

EDUCATION

Children: Day Care

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on providing support for childcare costs for parents aged under 20 to allow them to undertake *(a)* full or *(b)* part-time study. [59417]

Mr Gibb: In 2011/12 the Care to Learn scheme will provide assistance for child care and related transport costs to enable young parents under 20 with responsibility for caring for their child to attend education or training. The scheme provides support of up to £160 a week (£175 in London). Child care costs are paid direct to the provider of child care.

The Department for Education (DfE) is committed to continuing the Care to Learn scheme for young parents. Learner support for young people aged 19 and over at the start of their course is generally provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and officials from the two Departments are working together to consider how best to support parents aged 19 and over beyond the 2011/12 academic year.

Secondary Education: Kingston upon Thames

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to determine the capital allocation for a new secondary school in North Kingston for the period from 2012-13 to 2014-15. [58619]

Mr Gibb: In December, the Secretary of State for Education informed every relevant local authority of its full share of DfE capital funding for 2011-12. The Department has not retained any reserves for responding to individual applications from schools or local authorities.

It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply for primary and secondary school places in their area and ensure there are sufficient schools to meet the local need. The Department will continue to provide capital funding and monitor the situation with local authorities to secure sufficient school places.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on plans to increase philanthropic support for the arts. [61578]

Mr Vaizey: We have made good progress in our work to boost philanthropy in the arts. Having set out a 10-point action plan which will guide our work over the next four years, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), will shortly be launching an £80 million match funding programme in partnership with Arts Council England. This will help cultural organisations, large and small, across the country to build their supporter base and to fundraise more effectively, including through the development of endowments. The Government have published a White Paper on Giving which contained a range of measures which will boost charitable giving and volunteering across society. In his Budget the Chancellor announced a strong package of tax measures which will further incentivise philanthropy, in particular through legacy giving. We have also taken steps to strengthen public recognition for those who give their time and money to support the cultural life of the nation.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61720]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not made an estimate of the number of redundancies within its non-departmental public bodies, either in 2011-12 or over the spending review period. Any such decisions will need to be taken by the bodies themselves in the light of their spending review settlement.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what events his Department has planned to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012. [61581]

Hugh Robertson: My Department has worked closely with colleagues across Government to launch two civic honours competitions and create a special diamond jubilee bank holiday on 5 June next year. A medal will also be issued to mark the diamond jubilee and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, will make an announcement shortly. In addition, my Department continues to work in support of the wider programme of events for 2012, further details of which are available at:

www.direct.gov.uk/diamondjubilee

Olympic Games 2012: Smoking

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games on the provision of technical support by the World Health Organisation for implementation of a tobacco-free policy at the London 2012 Olympics. [61415]

Hugh Robertson: Officials in this Department and the Department of Health have discussed our aspiration for a tobacco-free Games with the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) on a number of occasions. At this stage, the role of the World Health Organisation in supporting this aspiration has not been considered.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics he expects to be taken up by non-UK residents. [60720]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games are global events. Of the 8.8 million tickets available for the Olympic Games, 75% are being made available through the UK application process. 12% of tickets are being made available to 205 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to sell to international sports fans in their countries. Due to EU law, UK residents are entitled to apply for tickets from NOCs within the EU, just as EU residents are entitled to apply for tickets from the UK application. However, over 95% of all applications in the first round of the UK public sales process—and of those who were successful—are from the UK.

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what powers the Government has to restrict the use or onward sale by officials of the government of *(a)* Libya and *(b)* Syria of tickets to the London 2012 Olympics allocated to their National Olympic Committee. [61137]

Hugh Robertson: Section 31 of the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006 makes it a criminal offence to sell a Games ticket in public or in the course of a business, without LOCOG's authorisation. "In the course of business" includes anyone who makes a profit or aims to make a profit from the sale.

Overseas, tickets are allocated to a country's National Olympic Committee which is responsible for distributing them within their country. However, every international visitor is subject to the UK's immigration controls.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 140W, on the Olympic Games 2012, how many tickets for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics have been allocated to schools in Scotland to date. [61317]

Hugh Robertson: Through a levy on high-end prestige ticket packages, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is funding 200,000 "Ticketshare" tickets, which will see 50,000 tickets donated to schools across the UK.

These tickets will be distributed via schools and colleges that have signed up to LOCOG's Get Set Network, part of the official London 2012 Get Set Education Programme. Therefore the numbers allocated to Scotland will depend on the number of schools and colleges that apply by the deadline of Friday 16 December 2011. Tickets will be allocated after this point.

Tourism: Diamond Jubilee 2012

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the potential effect on the economy of levels of tourism during the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations in 2012. [61577]

Hugh Robertson: Through VisitBritain, we are creating the best ever overseas tourism marketing campaign for Britain, taking advantage of the unique opportunities in 2012 afforded by the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Her Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations and other major events. The campaign is aiming to deliver an additional 4 million visitors to the UK and £2 billion extra spend over the next four years.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Languages

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the average cost per individual is to his Department of providing French language lessons for *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army pilots; and if he will make a statement; [61083]

(2) how many *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army pilots are receiving French language lessons; and if he will make a statement. [61084]

Nick Harvey: Currently four pilots are receiving French language lessons within the Defence intelligence and security centre. The breakdown by service is as follows:

RAF: One

Royal Navy: Three

Army: Nil.

The cost per individual to the Ministry of Defence for the provision of French language lessons for the RAF, Royal Navy and Army pilots is £7,761 per student.

Belize: Military Aid

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what helicopter support is available to support British military training in Belize. [60884]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* 25 Flight Army Air Corps (25 Flight AAC) currently operates three Bell 212 helicopters in support of the British Army Training Support Unit, Belize (BATSUB). This is however, due to cease this summer. The helicopters are operated by the Army Air Corps under a 'military registered contractor owned' basis, and are painted in the Army Air Corps military markings.

In 2010 the UK Ministry of Defence looked at its use of all military bases overseas and, after consultation with the Government of Belize, concluded that BATSUB would remain open but that we will, from 2011, temporarily suspend our routine training activities in Belize. As a consequence, there is currently no requirement for helicopter support and UK aviation support will, therefore, cease after the last Infantry exercise scheduled for mid-July. 25 Flight AAC will transfer to the UK, to provide helicopter support to other military collective training activities.

Defence Equipment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department will incur in relation to the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition between 13 and 16 September 2011; and which Ministers from his Department plan to attend the event. [60761]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Defence and Security Equipment International 2011 (DSEi '11) will be held at the ExCel centre in London from 13 - 16 September 2011. UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) is the Government lead for this event. The event provides an excellent medium through which to promote UK manufacturing and technological excellence in these sectors and, by inviting overseas customers, offers a valuable opportunity to support economic growth through exports. Costs associated with hosting official overseas delegations invited by Government to attend DSEi '11 will be met by the organisers. In support of this event the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will be providing two Royal Navy ships which will participate as part of the Royal Navy's routine military tasking. The MOD will provide a small team of military personnel to support UKTI DSO with the administrative arrangements for the event, for which we will meet the staff costs. Programmes of UK Government Ministers are decided nearer to the date of the event and will not be published in advance of its taking place.

Defence: Research

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what restrictions he has put in place to limit the transfer of UK military research and development to other countries. [61464]

Peter Luff: The British Government actively support the drive for commercial exports with a licensing system that ensures such activity is responsible. Information exchanges between governments are conducted in accordance with the provisions of Memoranda of Understanding. The Ministry of Defence only enters into such arrangements after extensive scrutiny.

Defence: USA

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to improve defence technology co-operation between the UK and US. [61465]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review published on 19 October 2010 emphasised that the US remains the UK's primary strategic collaborator. We are currently strengthening our collaborative engagement

with the US by increasing the proportion of our research programme undertaken on a collaborative basis in a number of key areas and refocusing activity that would have been undertaken with other nations. We are also working with the US on the detailed arrangements required to implement the US-UK Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty. The treaty aims to simplify transfer arrangements between the US and UK for certain categories of technology, when destined for UK and US Government end-use, and seeks to improve interoperability and the delivery of capability to our armed forces.

US-UK co-operation on nuclear technology continues to be enhanced through the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60906]

Nick Harvey: The Department's information security policy and guidance makes clear that, protectively marked information or personal data are not to be handled in circumstances where such information may be overlooked by unauthorised persons, particularly in public locations.

Staff are advised of technical procedures which can help to protect data security and are required to undertake the appropriate training courses on the protection of information.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to publish the first report on the projects considered by his Department's Major Projects Review Board on 13 June 2011. [61300]

Peter Luff: The Secretary of State for Defence has previously stated his intention to publish a list of "projects of concern" as an outcome of the Major Projects Review Board meetings. The purpose of the Board is to incentivise better performance in the management and delivery of major projects that are delayed or experiencing serious cost growth. Projects will be placed on the list of concern if once reviewed by the Board they continue to slip or increase in cost and fail to provide sufficient confidence in their recovery plan. It is not possible, therefore, to identify any specific "projects of concern" at this early stage in the process or to predict when such a report becomes appropriate.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what overseas visits he undertook in the last six months; what the *(a)* country and place visited, *(b)* date, *(c)* meetings attended during the visit, *(d)* names of other individuals attending such meetings and *(e)* purpose of each meeting was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [37793]

Dr Fox: The information is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Substantive answer from Liam Fox to Stephen Gilbert:

I write in reply to your written Parliamentary Question. (37793)

I answered on 2 February that the information was being collated and I would write to you as soon as it was available.

A full response is as follows.

Date	*Place, country*	*Meetings*	*Purpose*	*Attendees*
2010				
June/July				
4-7	Singapore and Abu Dhabi	Bilateral meetings	Defence Diplomacy	Representatives from Australia, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Singapore, and Sri Lanka
		IISS Shangri-La Security Conference	Conference Speaker	HMA, DA, PS, SA
10-11	Brussels, Belgium	NATO Defence Ministerial	Defence Ministerial	HMA, PS, SA
29 June-3 July	Washington DC and Tampa, Florida	Meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary, key congressman, and U.S. CentCom staff	Defence Diplomacy and operational briefing	HMA, DA, PS, SA, MA
August				
7-11	Dubai, Bahrain, Afghanistan	Key leader engagements in Kabul, Kandahar and Helmand	Strategic and operational briefing	HMAs, DAs, PS, SA
September				
2-3	Paris, France	French Defence Minister	Defence Diplomacy	DA, PS, SA
10-12	Geneva, Switzerland	IISS Global Strategic Review Conference	Speaking engagement	International representation

Date	Place, country	Meetings	Purpose	Attendees
				PS, SA
24-26	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Key leader engagement	Defence Diplomacy	HMA, DA, PS, SA
October/November				
31-1	Larnaca, Cyprus	Briefings from UK personnel	Operational briefing	CJO, PS, SA
10-11	Oslo, Norway	NATO Northern Grouping Ministers Meeting	Inaugural meeting	Northern Grouping Ministers and Officials.
				HMA, DA, PS, SA, Hd NEP
13-15	Afghanistan, Oman	Remembrance Parade	Remembrance	HRH Prince William
				HMA, DA, PS, SA, CJO
19-20	Lisbon, Portugal	NATO Summit	NATO discussions	NATO representatives
				HMA, PS, SA
22-24	New Delhi, India	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Development of UK/India Science and Technology relationship	Representatives of DRDO
		Indian Defence Minister and National Security Adviser	Defence Diplomacy	Indian Defence Minister, National Security Adviser and Indian MOD representatives
		Vivekenanda Foundation	Speaking engagement	International audience and media
		Meeting with EADS and BAE Systems	Support to UK industry	EADS and BAE Systems representatives
				HMA, DA, PS, SA, MA
December				
2-6	Manama, Bahrain	Bilateral meetings	Defence Diplomacy.	HMA, DA, PS, SA, MA
		Manama Dialogue	Conference Speaker	HMA, DA, PS, SA, MA
		MCC and RN personnel	Operational briefing	HMA, DA, PS, SA, MA
18-21	Dubai, UAE	Bilateral engagement with UAE key leaders	Regional engagement.	HMA, DA, PS, SA
		Visit to Al Minhad Airbase	Operational briefing	UK deployed personnel
2011				
January				
3-5	Afghanistan	Key leader engagements in Kabul, Masar-E-Sharif, Balk, Kandahar and Helmand.	Strategic and operational briefing	Meetings with key ISAF, UK and Afghans
				Accompanied by Attorney-General and FCO Minister (Alistair Burt MP)
				HMA, DA, PS, SA, DOpPol, CJO, MA
13	Paris, France	French Defence Minister,	Defence Diplomacy	DA, PS, SA
16-17	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Meeting HC of FPDA countries	Defence Diplomacy	HC of UK, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore

Date	Place, country	Meetings	Purpose	Attendees
		Meetings with Malaysian Defence Minister, Home Affairs Minister, and Prime Minister	Defence Diplomacy	Malaysian Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Affairs Minister, and Malaysian officials
		Meeting with BAE Systems and Boustead Naval Shipyard	Support to industry	BAE Systems and Boustead representatives
				HC, DA, PS, SA
18-20	Sydney and Adelaide, Australia	Australia/UK Ministerial Consultations	Defence Diplomacy	Australian Prime Minister, Foreign and Defence Ministers and delegations
		Visits to Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO)	Development of UK/Australia Science and Technology relationship	Australian Defence Ministers, Australian Secretary of Defence, DSTO officials Australian
		Meeting with BAE Systems	Support to industry	Defence Ministers, Australian Secretary of Defence Premier of South Australia, BAE Systems representatives
				HC, DA, CDS, 2nd PUS, PS, SA
20-22	Auckland, New Zealand	Meetings with New Zealand Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers, and Prime Minister	Defence Diplomacy	New Zealand Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers, and Prime Minister. UK Foreign Secretary and delegation, UK Chief of Defence Staff
		Visit to New Zealand Armed Forces	Operational briefing	HC, DA, 2nd PUS, PS, SA
24	Ankara, Turkey	Meetings with Turkish Defence Minister, Commander of the Turkish General Staff, and Turkish Undersecretary for Defence Industries	Defence Diplomacy	Turkish Defence Minister, Commander of the Turkish General Staff, and Turkish Undersecretary for Defence Industries
				HMA, DA, UK Commander Field Army, Hd UKTI DSO, PS, SA

Key:
HMA = Her Majesty's Ambassador;
DA = Defence Attaché/Adviser;
PS = Private Secretary; SA = Special Adviser(s) (Policy);
CJO = Chief of Joint Operations;
MA = Media Adviser;
DOpPol = Director Operational Policy;
Hd NEP = MOD Head of NATO and European Policy;
CDS = Chief of Defence Staff;
HC = Her Majesty's High Commissioner;
2nd PUS = 2nd Permanent Under Secretary;
Hd UKTI DSO = Head of UK Trade and Industry Defence Services Organisation.

Falkland Islands: Military Aircraft

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many quick reaction alert activations which have taken place on the Falkland Islands since May 2010 *(a)* only one aircraft and *(b)* no aircraft became airborne. [61161]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* A single Typhoon has been launched in every quick reaction alert activation over the last 12 months.

HMS Endurance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of repairs to HMS Endurance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [61291]

Peter Luff: The amounts spent by the Ministry of Defence in maintaining or repairing HMS Endurance during the last five years are shown in the following table:

Financial year	Amount (£ million)
2006-07[1]	3.2
2007-08[1]	2.3
2008-09[2]	2.1
2009-10[3]	0.5
2010-11	0

[1] Cost of routine maintenance which includes refits and repairing worn or damaged equipment.
[2] Cost of routine maintenance plus repair costs following the accident.
[3] Cost of removing equipment, cleaning and conducting a survey.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the use of Predator drones. [61128]

Nick Harvey: MQ-9 Reaper (also known as Predator B) is the UK's only armed remotely piloted aircraft system. It plays a vital role supporting military operations in Afghanistan where it is operated under the command of the NATO International Security and Assistance Force. Reaper crews comply fully with the air traffic procedures in force within their designated Afghan airspace; operate under the principles of International Humanitarian Law (also known as the Law of Armed Conflict); and any release of weapons is in accordance with the same UK rules of engagement as conventionally piloted UK combat aircraft operating in Afghanistan.

Warships: Deployment

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ships by type are deployed on current operations or exercises. [60531]

Nick Harvey: As of 16 June 2011, the ships of each type deployed on operations are as follows.

Middle East deployments

Type 23s

HMS Iron Duke

HMS Monmouth

Mine Counter Measures Vessels (MCMV)

HMS Grimsby

HMS Chiddingfold

HMS Pembroke

HMS Middleton

Royal Fleet Auxiliaries (RFAs)

RFA Lyme Bay—Landing ship dock

RFA Diligence—Forward repair ship

RFA Fort Victoria—Replenishment ship

Survey Vessel

HMS Echo

Operation ATALANTA

EU counter-piracy and counter-smuggling operations within the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Indian Ocean.

Type 23

HMS Richmond

Operation ELLAMY

The UK's contribution to NATO forces enforcing UN Resolution 1973 to protect civilians in Libya.

Landing platform helicopter

HMS Ocean

RFA

RFA Fort Rosalie—Replenishment ship

Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR

NATO forces enforcing UN Resolution 1973 to protect civilians in Libya.

Type 42

HMS Liverpool

MCMV

HMS Brocklesby

Responsive Force Task Group

Capacity building and support to operations East of Suez.

Landing platform dock and Fleet flagship

HMS Albion

Type 23

HMS Sutherland

RFAs

RFA Cardigan Bay—Landing ship dock

RFA Wave Knight—Fleet tanker

Gibraltar Patrol

The security of Gibraltar territorial seas.

Patrol boats

HMS Sabre

HMS Scimitar

Atlantic Patrol Tasking (North)

The UK's maritime contribution to the Caribbean and North Atlantic area. Protection of UK interests, humanitarian role in response to the natural disasters, especially hurricanes, which are prevalent in this region.

RFA

RFA Wave Ruler—Fleet tanker

Atlantic Patrol Tasking (South

The standing naval commitment to the South Atlantic and West African regions. Provide a maritime presence to protect the British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and UK's interests in the region.

Type 42

HMS Edinburgh

RFA

RFA Black Rover—Small fleet tanker

Falkland Island Patrol Ship

Permanently stationed in the region, responsible for maintaining British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Offshore patrol vessel (helicopter)

HMS Clyde

Fishery Protection

Patrolling UK's extended Fisheries Zone.

River Class offshore patrol vessel

HMS Tyne

HMS Severn

HMS Mersey

Survey operations

Survey operations throughout the world using the latest techniques to provide information for Admiralty charts and nautical publications and in particular updating the charts covering the waters around the United Kingdom.

Her Majesty's Survey Motor Launch

HMS Gleaner

UK Contingency operations

Royal Navy maritime security units at readiness to react to any possible threat to the integrity of UK territorial seas and security of the UK.

Type 23s

HMS Portland

HMS Westminster

HMS Montrose

Type 45

HMS Daring

MCMV

HMS Hurworth

RFA

RFA Orangeleaf—Support tanker.

In addition Type 45 Destroyer HMS Dauntless is exercising with French, US and Russian naval units as part of an annual exercise.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Bishops: Public Appointments

Diana Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the average length of time between announcing the retirement or resignation of a bishop and announcing the successor was in the latest period for which figures are available; what the period was in respect of the two provincial episcopal visitors who were recently appointed; and if he will make a statement. [61012]

Tony Baldry: There are several factors which affect the period taken to fill an episcopal vacancy, the principal ones being the amount of notice, if any, that a bishop gives of his intention to leave office and, in the case of diocesan sees, the number of vacancies with which the Crown Nominations Commission is already dealing. Because of a peak of diocesan vacancies over the past three years the length of diocesan vacancies has been unusually long.

The following table contains data in respect of eight recent vacancies for diocesan sees, 10 for suffragan sees, and two (which occurred at the same time as each other) for the suffragan sees occupied by provincial episcopal visitors. All answers are in days and are for the period between the announcement of the intention to leave office and the announcement of the appointment.

	Average time taken	*Actual time taken*
Suffragan	233	—
Diocesan	395	—
PEVs	—	178

Diana Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what average time elapsed between the announcement of the appointment and the consecration of suffragan bishops in the latest period for which figures are available; what the period was in respect of the two provincial episcopal visitors who were recently appointed; and if he will make a statement. [61013]

Tony Baldry: The table gives the period, in days, between the announcement of the appointments and the consecration dates in relation to 10 recent vacancies in suffragan sees and the two recent provincial episcopal visitor appointments:

	Average time taken	*Actual time taken*
Suffragans	79	—
PEVs	—	42

Church of England

Diana Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the ratio is of Church of England parishes which have passed Resolution C to provincial episcopal visitors. [61014]

Tony Baldry: The 2010 figures show that out of 12,614 parishes 363 parishes had petitioned for extended episcopal oversight, 802 had passed resolution A (under which a woman may not preside at Holy Communion) and 966 resolution B (under which a woman may not be incumbent of the parish). Under the Act of Synod the three provincial episcopal visitors have a spokesman and advisory role in relation to all those unable to receive the ministry of women priests as well as a direct oversight role for many of the 363 parishes who have petitioned for extended Episcopal oversight. For some of the 363 parishes oversight is provided by diocesan or other suffragan bishops who do not ordain women.

Church of England: Bishops

Diana Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the ratio is of Church of England parishes to serving bishops. [61015]

Tony Baldry: The most recent figures (2009) show that in the 43 dioceses of England and the Isle of Man there were 12,614 parishes and 110 bishops, of whom 43 were diocesan bishops. This gives a ratio of 115 parishes per bishop, though the actual ratio varies significantly between dioceses.

Churches: Visits

Diana Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what limits there are on any structures that provincial episcopal visitors are permitted to establish. [61016]

Tony Baldry: Provincial episcopal visitors are suffragan bishops within the dioceses of Canterbury and York and have no authority to establish any structures separate from those of their dioceses.

CABINET OFFICE

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58634]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not hold any contracts with Crown Relocations according to the records available.

My Civil Service Pension

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what consultation he had with staff employed in My Civil Service Pension (MyCSP) on the proposed mutualisation of MyCSP; and if he will publish the outcome of the consultation; [61632]

(2) what representations he has received from Civil Service staff on the proposed reform of My Civil Service Pension; [61633]

(3) what governance arrangements for My Civil Service Pension have been drafted ahead of its planned mutualisation; and whether *(a)* the public, *(b)* MyCSP staff and *(c)* trade unions are to be consulted on such governance arrangements. [61755]

Mr Maude: MyCSP is keen to transform its business into an innovative mutual joint venture that offers extensive benefits to employees, customers and the Government. The Government support this endeavour.

Extensive consultation with the employees of MyCSP has been carried out, led by the CEO, including face to face, written and telephone communications. Trade unions have been consulted and I have met with them personally.

There has been very strong interest from employees; naturally some have concerns and are eager to find out more about what the changes will mean in practice, but there is a great deal of recognition among employees of the fact that mutualisation offers substantial benefits.

Elections are already under way for employees to sit on the Employee Partnership Council. This body will strengthen the voice of employees and involve them directly in the running of the company.

Public Sector: Manpower

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland was employed by the public sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [61803]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population in (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland were employed by the public sector in the latest period for which figures are available (61803).

Estimates of regional employment for the UK public sector are published on a quarterly basis by the Office for National Statistics. The latest date for which information is available is March 2011.

The requested data are as follows:

Table 1: Regional public sector employment rates: by country of workplace[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Percentage of total employment			
	England	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Northern Ireland*
2011 Q1	20.3	25.0	26.1	29.7

[1] Rates based on total employment that includes overseas employees, those who did not state their region of workplace when surveyed as part of the Labour Force Survey and approximately 40,000 public sector employees that could not be assigned to a region.
[2] Estimates are based on where people are employed.
[3] Public Sector employment estimates for Scotland Q1 2011 will be revised on 28 June and included in the Scottish Government publication: Public Sector Employment in Scotland. This revision will take account of revised NHS headcount figures (based on a new improved methodology). Further details can be found at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market/PublicSectorEmployment
[4] Estimates for Northern Ireland will differ to those published by DFPNI. The ONS figures include HM Forces Personnel.
[5] Estimates of employment for Q1 2011 include 15,000 temporary staff employed to undertake the 2011 Census.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he received a request from *(a)* Members of the Welsh Government or *(b)* the Secretary of State for Wales between 6 May and 20 May 2011 to meet to discuss issues relating to affairs in Wales that are within his responsibilities. [57465]

Mr Maude: I received no such requests.

PRIME MINISTER

Legal Advice: Armed Forces

Mr Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish in full the legal advice he obtained before the commencement of military action in Libya. [61690]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Jonathan Edwards) on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 885W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Females: Mass Media

Claire Perry: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking in relation to the representation of body images of women in the media. [61544]

Lynne Featherstone: I have established an expert group to work with me, and representatives from relevant industries and the voluntary sector, to help reduce the pressure the media places on an individual's body image. People are being set an impossible standard by the images they see.

I am also working with Media Smart, a not-for-profit media literacy provider to create a lesson for primary schools that will give children the tools and techniques to understand and critically appraise what they see in the media.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Charities: VAT

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the payment of value added tax by charities in Northern Ireland. [62215]

Mr Paterson: I have had no such discussions as I have no ministerial responsibility for these areas. Tax is the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and charities policy and legislation in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Minister for Social Development.

Royal Irish Regiment: Parades

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many representations he has received on the decision by the Ministry of Defence not to permit a homecoming parade for the Royal Irish Regiment in Belfast; [60629]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on homecoming parades for the Royal Irish Regiment in Northern Ireland. [60659]

Mr Paterson: I have received a number of both written and verbal representations and as such have had a number of conversations with the Secretary of State for Defence.

Secondment

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were seconded from his Department to the Northern Ireland civil service in each year since 2007. [62214]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010 are not available.

There are currently eight staff seconded from my Department to the Northern Ireland civil service.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for contributory Employment and Support Allowance he expects for each financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [58461]

Chris Grayling *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The information requested is not available. The Department does not produce forecasts of claims received by payment type.

The following table provides the forecast total number of claims received for employment and support allowance.

	ESA claims received forecast (thousand)
2011-12	722
2012-13	720
2013-14	719
2014-15	709
2015-16	710

Hewlett Packard

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* Hewlett Packard and *(b)* trade unions on the application of Hewlett Packard to offshore elements of the Adams 2 contract it holds with his Department; and when he expects to reach a decision on this application. [61582]

Chris Grayling: The Department's existing contract for IT services with HP already makes provision for the delivery of services from non-UK locations. Ministers are reviewing existing plans to increase the amount of work delivered this way.

Jobcentre Plus: Travel

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he took into consideration the ability of employees of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Office within Hartlepool Jobcentre Plus to travel to other Jobcentre Plus offices by public transport prior to his decision to close that office. [61701]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether he took into consideration the ability of employees of the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) Office within Hartlepool Jobcentre Plus to travel to other Jobcentre Plus offices by public transport prior to his decision to close that office. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In deciding which sites to close in rationalising our estate, Jobcentre Plus used a balance of criteria of: performance; cost; size (sites under 200 seats being less cost effective); staff redeployment opportunities and impact on the local economy/community (including seeking to avoid areas where other public sector staff reductions may take place). In addition a full Equality Impact Assessment was conducted and a site specific one for each site selected. Disability, gender, race, age, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sexual orientation and pregnancy and maternity were all considered. This ensured that all of the issues and potential impacts were exposed and mitigated. The results of the Hartlepool IIDB office Equality Impact Assessment were included within the equally weighted and balanced set of criteria that was used by Jobcentre Plus to inform decision making.

Therefore I can confirm that the redeployment potential of the Hartlepool staff was one of the factors considered when deciding whether to close the site.

Every member of staff at Hartlepool IIDB centre will be offered a job elsewhere in Jobcentre Plus. There may also be additional opportunities for redeployment into other Civil Service posts outside of this Department. Help with travel to get to an alternative workplace will be given. Redeployment to Stockton and Sunderland Benefit Centres, Middlesbrough Contact Centre and the Jobcentres at Hartlepool, Billingham, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Thornaby, Eston, Redcar, Darlington and Middlesbrough East are being given due consideration.

All staff at Hartlepool are being engaged by their managers in frequent one to one discussions. This is the opportunity for staff to explore their options and access the full range of support offered by Jobcentre Plus under departmental workforce management and equality policies. All available options will be considered, including relocation, redeployment and reasonable adjustments. Trade Union representatives are being kept informed and are available for staff to consult about their particular circumstances.

Maternity Pay

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy for staff is in respect of *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* rates of pay for (i) maternity and (ii) adoption leave. [61792]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions offers all employees access to enhanced provisions on maternity and adoption leave. For those employees with the appropriate level of qualifying service it also exceeds statutory minimum payments.

Maternity Leave and Pay

Regardless of length of service or hours worked, employees are entitled to unpaid Departmental Maternity Leave of 52 weeks.

Employees who have completed 26 weeks continuous service by the 15th week before the Expected Week of Childbirth are entitled to 39 weeks Statutory Maternity Pay, which is six weeks at 90% of pay, followed by 33 weeks at Statutory Maternity Pay level.

Employees who have completed more than one year's paid service (including temporary service) within the Civil Service when their maternity leave starts may be eligible, for 26 weeks Departmental Maternity Pay (DMP) paid at their normal rate of pay, followed by 13 weeks Statutory Maternity Pay and a further 13 weeks Unpaid Maternity Leave.

Adoption Leave and Pay

Regardless of length of service or hours worked, employees are entitled to unpaid Departmental Adoption Leave of 52 weeks, provided employees adopt through an approved adoption agency.

Employees who have completed 26 weeks of service by the placement date and have average weekly earnings of at least £97 per week before tax, are entitled to 39 weeks of Statutory Adoption Pay, at whichever is the lower of:

£124.88 or

90% of their average weekly earnings.

Employees who have completed more than one year's paid service, including temporary service, when their adoption leave starts may be eligible for 26 weeks paid adoption leave at their normal rate of pay followed by 13 weeks Statutory Adoption Pay and a further 13 weeks of unpaid leave.

Older Workers

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to integrate into his Department's policies the objectives of the 2012 European Year on Active Ageing. [61780]

Steve Webb: The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations challenges member states to improve opportunities for active ageing in general and for living independently, acting in areas as diverse as employment, health care, social services, adult learning, volunteering, housing, IT services or transport.

DWP is already working with other Government Departments, local government, the voluntary and community sector, other stakeholders and citizens to address these challenges, support the development of practical local solutions and promote the learning from this work.

Pathways to Work: Redundancy

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people previously employed on Pathways to Work were made redundant in each of the last 12 months; and how many such people had disabilities. [61583]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people who were previously employed on Pathways to Work who were made redundant is not collected.

The advent of the Work Programme has raised questions about the rights of staff working on previous employment programmes, such as Pathways to Work, to transfer to the new contractors under TUPE (the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006). This is a complex transition, with large numbers of contracts coming to an end and being replaced by a smaller number of larger contracts.

While DWP understood the concerns of people involved in the Pathways to Work contracts, the support available through Jobcentre Plus and Work Programme represents a clean break from previous work initiatives and cannot therefore be seen as a continuation of Pathways to Work. Staff working for Pathways to Work providers were therefore not eligible for TUPE transfer to Jobcentre Plus.

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. Official statistics on Pathways to Work starts and job entries are available up to October 2010, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=ib_ref_p2w

Pensions

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that members of the public are aware of the effects on them of auto-enrolment in workplace pension schemes; and if he will make a statement. [60426]

Steve Webb: DWP will proactively communicate the reforms to individuals through the media and other channels, working in partnership with other organisations where appropriate.

We are also developing a comprehensive set of information that will be available to individuals who want to know more about the reforms, this will be available via Directgov, supported by a call centre and though partner organisations including the Pensions Advisory Service and the Money Advice Service, where more specialist, independent information about pensions or about financial planning and budgeting is needed.

DWP, with the help of the Pensions Regulator and some large employers, is also developing an 'information toolkit' so that employers have information available for their employees in the workplace.

We also have a full programme of communications to employers which will explain the reforms. We will use a variety of channels such as the media and business websites. The Pensions Regulator is also rolling out a programme of communications and information so that employers understand how to comply with the legislation.

TRANSPORT

Low-carbon Vehicles

18. **Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to promote low-carbon vehicles. [61524]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Government have made provision of over £400 million for measures to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies. These measures include support for consumer incentives, development of recharging infrastructure, and a programme of research, development work and demonstration work. Low emission vehicles are also supported by the tax system.

Airports

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what definition his Department uses of the term hub airport. [61466]

Mrs Villiers: As part of the process of developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation, the Department for Transport published a scoping document in March 2011 which provides the following broad definition of a hub airport:

"A hub airport is used by airlines as the main base for connecting traffic where a significant proportion of passengers transfer between flights."

Car Odometer

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department provides on the legitimate circumstances for the replacement of a car odometer. [61702]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not publish specific guidance. While there is no legal requirement to fit an odometer to a vehicle or for a fitted odometer to be in good working order, it is an offence enforceable by trading standards officers if a recorded mileage is knowingly misrepresented to a potential purchaser.

Crossrail Line

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of establishing a Crossrail station at *(a)* Kensal Green and *(b)* Old Oak Common. [59788]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail route as defined under the Crossrail Act 2008 does not include a station at Kensal Green.

The Department for Transport has not made an assessment of the cost of an additional Crossrail station at Kensal Green. The Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea have outlined their view of the estimated costs to Crossrail sponsors, and Crossrail Limited is working with sponsors to test these estimates. As part of its proposals for a national high speed rail network, HS2 Ltd estimated that the base construction cost of a Crossrail interchange at Old Oak Common would be £570 million (excluding risk).

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the timetable for the completion of the Crossrail project of adding further stations to the project. [59789]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail route as defined under the Crossrail Act 2008 does not include a station at Kensal Green. The Department for Transport has not undertaken an assessment of the impact of stations not included on the route as defined under the Act on the programme for the completion of Crossrail.

Any change to the scope of Crossrail would have to be approved by the joint sponsors, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Transport. In the first instance, Crossrail Limited would need to assess the potential programme impacts were such a change to be proposed. The impact on Crossrail services would also have to be considered.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities in the construction of Crossrail have been recorded. [59790]

Mrs Villiers: There have been no fatalities to date during the construction of Crossrail. There have been 12 RIDDOR-reportable accidents (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, 1995) since Crossrail commenced its main delivery phase in May 2009. Prior to that one reportable accident occurred in February 2008 during the preliminary works stage.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the safety record in constructing Crossrail. [59791]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport receives regular information from Crossrail Ltd regarding safety matters. In addition, arrangements are in place to ensure that the Department for Transport is advised if a serious safety incident occurs.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of establishing a Crossrail station at Old Oak Common. [59792]

Mrs Villiers: An assessment of a Crossrail interchange has been carried out by HS2 Ltd as part the development of its proposals. As set out in the current consultation on high speed rail, the Government consider that there is a strong case for a Crossrail interchange at Old Oak Common.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the merits of establishing a Crossrail station at Kensal Green. [59793]

Mrs Villiers: The Crossrail route as defined under the Crossrail Act 2008 does not include a station at Kensal Green. The Department for Transport has not made an assessment of the merits of an additional Crossrail station at Kensal Green, although the Royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea have shared with Crossrail sponsors their view of the merits of this proposal, and sponsors are working to test these estimates.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish full details of the High Speed Two Y route; and for what reason he has not made this information available. [61154]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* Details of options for the routes to Leeds and Manchester, including stations, are currently in preparation. This work is not yet complete and I am, therefore, yet to receive any advice on these routes.

The timetable we have always been working to is set out in a letter I wrote to HS2 Ltd on 4 October 2010, in which I requested that it complete its advice on routes to Leeds and Manchester by December 2011. This letter is at:

http://www.hs2.org.uk/publications/HS2-Ltds-remit-of-4-October-2010--61200

My Department's business plan clearly states that informal consultation on the options for routes to Leeds and Manchester will commence in 2012, followed by formal consultation in 2014. The business plan is at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/business/plan2011-15/

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Departments have allocated to planning and preparation for High Speed Two to 2014-15; how much of this funding has been spent; and on what activities such funding has been spent. [61155]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The information requested is provided in the following table.

Funding allocated to planning and preparation for HS2, 2014-15

£ million

	Pre 2011-12	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource spending	21.3	116.1	163.3	89.4	204.2
Capital spending	3.1	50	50	50	50

HS2 Ltd spent £24.1 million (excluding VAT) between January 2009, when it was established, and the end of the 2010-11 financial year. In addition, the Department spent £9.6 million on property purchases under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what compensation he plans to make available to home owners living along the proposed High Speed Two route between Manchester and Leeds. [61207]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* No decision has yet been made on discretionary blight or compensation arrangements for future proposed routes between Birmingham and Manchester, and Birmingham and Leeds. Until the options for routes to Manchester and Leeds are known, and the potential effect of blight considered, it would be premature to decide what support arrangements may need to be put in place.

Following publication of those route options the Government would consider, and consult on, the question of whether the approach taken for the first phase of the network would also be effective for lines further north, or whether an alternative approach would be more appropriate.

High Speed Two Railway Line: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential benefit to Ormskirk and Skelmersdale of the High Speed Two project. [61567]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport has made no estimate specific to Ormskirk and Skelmersdale. However, Table 5 of the "Economic Case for HS2" available on the HS2 consultation website at:

www.highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

shows that on the basis of trip origins an estimated 23% of the benefits of the initial London-West Midlands phase of HS2 would relate to the North West region. This would include benefits derived from the two high speed peak hour services that would run onto Glasgow Central and call at Wigan and Preston, as outlined in HS2 Ltd's indicative modelled service specification.

Once the proposed high speed line from Birmingham to Manchester is completed, we would expect further economic benefits to accrue to the North West region, including Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

High Speed Two Railway Line: Liverpool

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential economic benefit of High Speed Two to the Liverpool City region. [57392]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Department for Transport has made no estimate specific to the Liverpool city region. However, Table 5 of the Economic Case for HS2, available on the HS2 consultation website at:

http://highspeedrail.dft.gov.uk/library/documents/economic-case

shows that on the basis of trip origins an estimated 23% of the benefits of the initial London-West Midlands phase of HS2 would relate to the North West region. This would include benefits derived from the two high speed services per hour to Liverpool included in HS2 Ltd's modelled service specification.

Once the proposed line form Birmingham to Manchester is completed, we would expect further economic benefits to accrue to the North West region, including to the Liverpool City region.

High Speed Two

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings he has had with those with properties affected by the proposed High Speed Two rail route to Manchester and Leeds. [61703]

Mr Philip Hammond: The options for routes north of the West Midlands are currently being developed by HS2 Ltd and are planned to be published in 2012. At this stage it is too early to know what properties could potentially be affected.

I have met and had discussions with several members of the public whose properties are in the vicinity of the proposed route between London and the West Midlands as part of my visits to the line of route before and during the current consultation.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether EU Directive 96/53/EC on road vehicles will restrict use of any articulated vehicle in excess of 16.5 metres in length on UK roads to operation on a trial basis only. [61331]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* Article 4.4 (b) of Directive 96/53/EC permits a member state to allow, in domestic traffic, vehicles which exceed the maximum dimensions specified in Annex I (in the case of articulated vehicles, a maximum length of 16.5m), provided that the member state also allows vehicles which comply with Annex I dimensions to be used in such combinations as to achieve at least the loading length of the longer vehicle. If this condition is fulfilled, there is no requirement to operate on a trial basis only.

The Government are consulting on a proposal to allow articulated vehicles of 18.75m in total length, with a loading length of 15.65m. This is the same loading length which is currently provided by Annex I compliant rigid/drawbar combinations.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* road safety and *(b)* levels of carbon emissions of the operation on UK roads of vehicles over 16.5 metres in length. [61333]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Department for Transport's research into the potential impacts of allowing longer semi-trailers on British roads, set out in the impact assessment on longer semi-trailers, found that while there might be a small increase in safety risk per vehicle, this is outweighed by a forecast decrease in accidents from running fewer lorries, with an overall net decrease in casualties from accidents involving articulated HGVs of around 1.6%.

The research also found that allowing longer semi-trailers would result in around 100,000 tonnes annual reduction in CO_2 emissions.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the ratio of laden to unladen heavy goods vehicles on UK roads in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the likely ratio following any introduction of vehicles over 16.5 metres to the UK. [61334]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* Current load factors for heavy goods vehicles are published in the Department's "Road Freight Statistics". Figures are available for 2009 on the Department's website.

The Government are consulting on proposals to allow an increase in the length of articulated lorries. Research commissioned by the Department considered a variety of matters that influence loading factors, and sensitivity tests were conducted to assess the implications. This is summarised in the main report and the impact assessment with the full detail found in section 4 of the Economic Assessment.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving heavy goods vehicles there were in each of the last 10 years; how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* serious injuries arose from such accidents in each such year; and what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the numbers of such incidents of the introduction of heavy goods vehicles over 16.5 metres long. [61335]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* Reported personal injury road accidents involving a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) and the consequential casualties in Great Britain collated by the Department for Transport for 2000 to 2009 were as follows:

	Accidents	*Casualties*	
		Killed	*Seriously injured*
2000	13,894	560	2,719
2001	13,631	575	2,564
2002	12,427	532	2,374
2003	12,205	528	2,111
2004	11,542	449	1,884
2005	11,162	486	1,785
2006	10,466	419	1,700
2007	9,829	435	1,574
2008	8,415	368	1,344
2009	7,013	268	1,171

The Department's research into the potential impacts of allowing longer semi-trailers on GB roads found that while there may be an increase in safety risk per vehicle this is outweighed by a forecast decrease in accidents from running fewer lorries, with an overall net decrease in casualties from accidents involving articulated HGVs of around 1.6 per cent.

London Underground: Industrial Disputes

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to prevent unplanned industrial action on London Underground. [60467]

Mrs Villiers: Existing legislation already requires trade unions contemplating industrial action to ballot their membership and give due notice to the employer.

Government encourages both London Underground (LU) and the trade unions representing LU employees to resolve current disputes as quickly as possible through negotiation.

Railways

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to increase efficiency on the rail network. [61511]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty published his independent study on rail value for money last month, setting out recommendations for increasing efficiency on the rail network.

The Department for Transport is working with the rail industry and other stakeholders to reduce the cost of our railways to the taxpayer and the farepayer, taking full account of Sir Roy's study, and plans to publish a detailed policy statement on rail by the end of November 2011.

Railways: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Bristol county council about the future of the Severn Beach Line. [58406]

Norman Baker: Bristol city council has discussed with the Department for Transport how the First Great Western franchise agreement works in order to help it better understand options for continuing financial support for additional train services on the Severn Beach line. The terms of the franchise in place require First Great Western to provide a minimum number of services on the route.

Railways: Scotland

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend the proposed high speed rail link to Scotland; and what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on this subject. [61153]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Government's aspiration is for a truly national high speed rail network. While there are no detailed plans at this stage for any extension to Scotland, the Government would expect to work, subject to the outcome of the current consultation, with the Scottish Government and others to identify and evaluate options for developing the high speed network and reducing journey times further going forward.

Railways: Theft

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings officials of his Department have had with officials of the Home Department on measures to reduce the incidence of metal theft from the railway network. [61030]

Norman Baker: Officials from the Department for Transport met recently with Home Office officials to discuss the issue of metal theft and to explore possible options to combat it. I have also discussed the matter with representatives from Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies.

Cable theft is a crime which hits the railway particularly hard and causes levels of disruption out of all proportion to the value of the material stolen. That is why the British Transport Police are in the forefront of efforts to tackle the problem, working with Network Rail, train operators, other police forces, the scrap metal industry and others with an interest.

Methods used to deter and catch the thieves include:

a dedicated BTP task force with increased patrols, intelligence led policing and additional dedicated officers;

the use of the Network Rail helicopter, CCTV, forensic marking, trembler alarms and other devices to protect the cable;

the introduction of new type of cable that is easier to identify and harder to steal; and

fast response teams to get trains on the move as quickly as possible following an incident.

Rescue Services

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which Coastguard Coordination Centre buildings are *(a)* rented and *(b)* leased from other landlords; [61460]

(2) which Coastguard Coordination Centre buildings are in public ownership; and what the monetary value of each such building is; [61461]

(3) which rented or leased Coastguard Coordination Centre buildings have covenants or restrictions as part of the terms of the lease or rental agreement; and what the terms of the covenants or restrictions are in each case; [61462]

(4) which Coastguard Coordination Centre buildings in public ownership have covenants or restrictions applicable to any sale; and what the terms of the covenants or restrictions are in each case. [61463]

Mike Penning: The information requested is in the following table.

MRCC location	*Monetary value (£) (net book value)[1]*	*Rented from other landlords*	*Leased from other landlords*	*Publicly owned*	*MOTO arrangement*	*Covenants applicable to sale or terms of lease*	*Restrictions applicable to sale or terms of lease*	*Terms of covenant/ restrictions*
Stornoway	849,057	No	No	Yes	—	Yes	Yes	Use of premises Resale option to original owner in first instance

MRCC location	Monetary value (£) (net book value)[1]	Rented from other landlords	Leased from other landlords	Publicly owned	MOTO arrangement	Covenants applicable to sale or terms of lease	Restrictions applicable to sale or terms of lease	Terms of covenant/ restrictions
Shetland	609,024	No	No—Buildings	Yes—Buildings	—	Yes	Yes	Land—Use of premises on the land which have to be in good order and repair
			Yes—Land	Yes—Land owned by Shetland s Islands Council				
Aberdeen	—	—	Yes	No	—	No	No	—
Clyde	—	—	—	—	Yes	No	No	—
Forth	334,865	No	No	Yes	—	No	No	—
Humber	359,477	No	No	Yes	—	—	—	—
Yarmouth	—	—	—	No	Yes	No	No	—
Thames	524,223	No	No	Yes	—	No	No	—
London	—	Licence	No	No	—	—	—	—
Dover	1,932,556	No	No	Yes		No	No	
Solent	—	—	Yes	No	—	Yes	—	Use of premises Repair and maintenance Reinstatement
Portland	3,316,628	No	No	Yes	—	No	No	—
Brixham	368,896	No	No	Yes	—	No	No	—
Falmouth	737,744	No	No—Buildings	Yes—Buildings	—	Yes	Yes	Land—Use of premises on the land Reinstatement of land Reassignment at discretion of Landlord
			Yes—Land	Yes—Land owned by Carrick District Council				
Swansea	839,037	No	No—Buildings	Yes—Buildings	—	—	—	Land—No reassignment of the land. Buildings on the land must yield up in good and substantial repair
			Yes—Land	Yes—Land owned by Swansea City Council				

MRCC location	Monetary value (£) (net book value)[1]	Rented from other landlords	Leased from other landlords	Publicly owned	MOTO arrangement	Covenants applicable to sale or terms of lease	Restrictions applicable to sale or terms of lease	Terms of covenant/ restrictions
Milford Haven	257,253	No	No—Buildings	Yes—Buildings	—	—	—	Land—Reinstatement of land Reassignment may be possible
			Yes—Land	Yes—Land owned by Milford Haven Port Authority				
Holyhead	691,350	No	No	Yes	—	—	—	Use of premises
Liverpool	1,524,244	No	No	Yes	—	No	No	—
Belfast	—	—	Yes	No	—	Yes	—	Use of premises

[1] This is based on the Net Book values as held in the MCA's accounts as at 31 March 2011 and is based on either a Depreciated Replacement Cost or an Existing Use Value, which ever is the more appropriate. These are updated annually and will differ from market values.

Rescue Services: Closures

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of the coastguard stations considered for closure by the Government are funded through the private finance initiative. [61586]

Mike Penning: No coastguard premises are funded through the private finance initiative.

Rescue Services: Power Failures

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions coastguard co-ordination centres were unable to operate due to *(a)* technical and *(b)* power failures in each of the last five years; for how long services were suspended in each such case; and where co-ordination services were transferred to during each such suspension. [61587]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) do not capture or record fault data in such a way that directly links to impact on the coastguard service, nor where such failures may lead to another station being asked to take over part of an operational area.

The MCA do however capture national level data on events classed as 'grade A' or 'priority 1', these being defined as "Total Failure of a Coastguard Operational System". However, it is not necessarily the case that any or all such faults will have resulted in the transfer of operational duties to another co-ordination centre.

Rescue Services: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* planned investment at each Maritime and Coastguard Agency location in Scotland in each of the last five years. [61585]

Mike Penning: The information is as follows:

(a) Maintenance spend at each Maritime and Coastguard Agency location in Scotland in each of the last five years

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Costs (£) 2010-11
Shetland MRCC	17,056	9,166	20,469	17,044	8,211
Aberdeen MRCC	23,309	6,916	13,664	45,125	103
Forth MRCC	48,090	18,577	32,921	20,541	6,944
Clyde MRCC	99,347	15,244	36,313	9,170	13,764
Stornoway MRCC	89,122	33,815	72,690	14,422	19,102
Total	276,923	83,720	176,057	106,302	48,125

Notes:

1. Costs include:

Estate maintenance costs for the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) only. Costs for other MCA estate is not captured. For those sites where a Marine Office and MRCC are co-located, costs are not separable and both are included above.

2. Costs excluded:

IGT is managed on a national basis rather than by site and it is not possible to separately identify such costs. MCA support contracts are tendered against a requirement to provide service UK-wide (including Northern Ireland).

(b) Planned investment at each Maritime and Coastguard Agency location in Scotland in each of the last five years

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Costs (£) 2010-11
Shetland MRCC	0	0	0	0	0
Aberdeen MRCC	343	0	0	50,064	66,587
Forth MRCC	0	0	0	5,264	0

(b) Planned investment at each Maritime and Coastguard Agency location in Scotland in each of the last five years

					Costs (£)
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Clyde MRCC	0	0	0	0	0
Stornoway MRCC	24,245	0	0	5,264	0
Total	24,588	0	0	60,591	66,587

Notes:
1. Costs include:
Capital costs for the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCC) only. Costs for other MCA estate is not captured. For those sites where a Marine Office and MRCC are co-located, costs are not separable and both are included above.
2. Costs excluded:
ICT is managed on a national basis rather than by site and it is not possible separately to identify such costs.

Trailers: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the longer semi-trailer feasibility study and impact assessment commissioned by his Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of options 4, 5 and 6 proposed in the consultation on *(a)* tail swings at roundabouts, *(b)* susceptibility to cross-winds and *(c)* safety in the absence of new steering technology. [61330]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Department for Transport commissioned research concerning the use of high-volume semi-trailers. From this research a report by the Transport Research Laboratory and Cambridge university addresses these questions.

The report is entitled:

"The likely effects of permitting longer semi-trailers in the UK: vehicle specification performance and safety" by I Knight, T Robinson, B Robinson, T Barlow, I McCrae (TRL) and A Odhams, R L Roebuck, C Cheng (Cambridge University)

A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Regulation

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made in reducing the burden of regulation on farmers. [61547]

Mr Paice: We commissioned the independent Task Force on Farming Regulation which reported on 17 May. I warmly welcome the task force's report. The Government are now carefully considering the report's recommendations, and will provide an initial public response this autumn followed by a final response early in 2012.

Circuses: Animal Welfare

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on performing wild animals, what assessment she has made of the compatibility with European law of any legislative proposal to prohibit the use of wild animals in circuses. [56473]

Mr Paice: The very strong legal advice that we have received is that a total ban on wild animals in circuses might well be seen as disproportionate measure under Article 16 of the European Union Services Directive 2006 and a breach of Article 1 Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights which was incorporated into United Kingdom law by the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environment Protection

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to paragraph 2.21 of her Department's document, The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, when she expects to hold the first annual Ministerial event to bring together local nature and local enterprise partnerships; and whether she plans to publish a report on the outcome of the event. [61219]

Richard Benyon: We will start hosting an annual ministerial event for Local Nature Partnerships from spring 2012 where the first partnerships will be able to come together to share best practice, highlight delivery issues and celebrate success. Further updates on the first event will be available in due course. A brief summary of the event will appear on the DEFRA website.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the box on a sustainable approach to low-carbon energy on page 23 of her Department's document, The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, how the Government plans to work with others to establish a research programme to fill evidence gaps about the effects on the natural environment of the level of infrastructure needed to meet low-carbon energy objectives for 2050. [61220]

Richard Benyon: The Government are currently looking at the best way to take forward this research programme. We have had initial discussions with the Living with Environmental Change partnership, including some research councils.

Given the breadth and inter-disciplinary nature of this research, we would like to involve a mixture of participants including the research councils, industry, academia, NGOs and other research institutions. One option would be for the programme to act as an "umbrella" initiative designed to initiate individual pieces of research to fill evidence gaps, as well as joining up existing work in this area, towards answering strategic questions about what constitutes a sustainable energy mix. Our aim is to understand the environmental capacity for the deployment of low carbon energy to 2050 better, and to use that to help us understand how to make truly sustainable choices.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to paragraph 3.11 of her Department's document, The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, when the Government plans to establish an independent Natural Capital Committee; and what criteria she plans to use in making the appointments to that committee. [61221]

Richard Benyon: We are currently developing a set-up project for the Natural Capital Committee, to be run over the summer. We envisage that the Committee will be set up as an expert committee, rather than as a non-departmental public body, and the specific status of the Committee could influence the details of the appointment procedure. We currently envisage that a "non-OCPA" (Office of the Commissioner on Public Appointments) procedure consistent with the OCPA code of practice will be applied.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to paragraph 3.28 of her Department's document, "The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature", when the Government plans to set up a business-led Ecosystem Markets Task Force; and what criteria she plans to use to make appointments to the task force. [61222]

Richard Benyon: When launching the Natural Environment White Paper we were pleased to announce that Ian Cheshire (CEO of Kingfisher Plc) has accepted the Secretary of State's invitation to chair the Ecosystem Markets Task Force. This is an ad hoc group, reporting through the Green Economy Council (a group that has been formed to help business rise to the low-carbon challenge). Task Force members will be selected through discussion between the chair and Government officials, with input from Green Economy Council members. We will hold a first meeting after the summer recess.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to paragraph 3.39 of her Department's document, The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature, through which channels she expects the UK to work with the EU Joint Research Council to develop evidence on the environmental effects of products and their supply chains, and to consider future developments in minimum standards under the EU Ecodesign directive. [61223]

Richard Benyon: We have already established a close working relationship with the EU Joint Research Council (JRC) through its participation in the Steering Group for the review of PAS 2050, the UK-developed methodology for measuring greenhouse gas emissions across the supply chain.

We are continuing to build on our existing effective working relationship with the JRC to ensure that we are able to influence developments at EU level in the interests of UK business most constructively. We share reports of evidence projects already undertaken, and use these as a basis for identifying the scope for collaboration on future projects. Such projects might assess the environmental impacts of products and their supply chains, and consider future developments in minimum standards.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the resource capacity of local government biodiversity officers to participate in Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs); and what consultation her Department undertook with the Association of Local Government Ecologists on the creation of LNPs. [61311]

Richard Benyon: Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) were requested by many of the organisations responding to the Natural Environment White Paper consultation. In the White Paper, we commit to encouraging and supporting LNPs where local areas wish to establish them. We have suggested that these may consist of people from local authorities, civil society organisations, land managers and people in the community, but we are not enforcing the concept or structure. It is for local areas to decide whether an LNP is the appropriate structure to protect and improve the natural environment local to them. In the course of developing the concept of LNPs and producing guidance for the next steps in establishing them, we consulted local authorities extensively, and visited several to discuss the idea.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the adoption of targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions by large companies. [60988]

Mr Paice: The current DEFRA/DECC guidance to help organisations measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions recommends that organisations set a greenhouse gas emission reduction target. This guidance is available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/economy/business-efficiency/reporting/

Recycling: Bottles

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the likely effects on levels of recycling of the introduction of a bottle deposit return scheme; [60928]

(2) if she will make a cost-benefit assessment of establishing a bottle deposit return scheme. [60929]

Richard Benyon: Our waste policy review included an analysis of the costs and benefits of implementing a bottle deposit system, based on the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) report "Have we got the bottle?" Details of the analysis will be published later this year.

We concluded that although such a scheme could increase recycling and reduce litter, its estimated running costs are very high, and much higher than alternative measures. In view of this, we have decided not to take forward the option of bottle deposit schemes for the time being, and concentrate on other ways to increase recycling and address litter.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gambia: Overseas Aid

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities his Department has established for its aid to Northern Gambia; and how much aid it plans to allocate there each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [61630]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been winding down its bilateral aid programme in The Gambia. The recent review of all DFID's bilateral aid programmes concluded that we should close the Gambia programme in 2011, as UK aid could have greater impact elsewhere.

We will ensure that arrangements are in place to incorporate and sustain the gains made through UK bilateral support as part of other donors' programming. The UK will continue to provide financial support to The Gambia through our increasing share of multilateral programming. We do not have planned allocations for the multilateral organisations for The Gambia in future financial years, but the information for previous years can be found on the DFID website.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he had with the government of Zimbabwe prior to deciding on the allocation of aid to that country. [61692]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: As we developed plans for our programme to Zimbabwe, I held personal discussions with the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Minister for Education of Zimbabwe.

My officials have regular contact with Zimbabwean Ministers and senior officials to ensure the best possible coherence with the plans of the Zimbabwe Government.

It remains the case that no UK development funds are passed through the Government. All our programmes are delivered through trusted partners such as UNICEF, the Africa Development Bank and NGO's.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timescale she has set for the establishment in Scotland of an inspection system for private providers of higher and further education under the student visa scheme. [60921]

Damian Green: In line with our commitment to ensure all privately funded Tier 4 sponsors are inspected by a publicly recognised authority by the end of 2012, we announced on 13 June that the Quality Assurance Agency and the Independent Schools Inspectorate would extend their activities to cover privately funded providers. The Quality Assurance Agency already inspect Universities in Scotland and will offer inspections covering privately funded providers of higher education in all parts of the UK, including Scotland. We are currently in discussion with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education on their potential role in the establishment of an inspection system for private providers of further education in Scotland and hope to make an announcement on this shortly.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates her Department made *(a)* written and *(b)* oral contact with HM Inspector of Education in Scotland to discuss the inspection of private providers of higher and further education; and whether any agreement to inspect private providers will require primary or secondary legislation. [61037]

Damian Green: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education has been an approved educational oversight body since the inception of Tier 4. On 22 March 2011 we announced a tightening of the list of approved bodies to the eight listed bodies that operate the regulatory framework for publicly funded providers and independent schools. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, as the statutory authority in Scotland, remained an approved inspection body for Tier 4.

We are currently working closely with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education on their potential role in the establishment of an inspection system for private providers of further education in Scotland and hope to announce on this shortly. Oral contact was first made on 4 April 2011 and first written contact (via e-mail) was on 12 April 2011.

Fixed Penalties

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to police forces on the issuing of a *(a)* fixed penalty notice, *(b)* non-endorsable fixed penalty notice and *(c)* penalty notice for disorder in the last two years. [61396]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has not issued such guidance in the last two years. Guidance on fixed penalties for offences in respect of a vehicle was issued in 2006 and is currently under review by a working group established by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

The penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. That Department issued revised operational guidance to police forces on 16 July 2009. This restricts the use of PNDs for retail theft and criminal damage to first time offenders who are not substance mis-users and where the value of stolen goods or damage does not exceed £100 (retail theft) or £300 (criminal damage). Further guidance was issued to police forces on 23 July 2009 restricting the use of PNDs for cannabis possession to first time offenders, as part of the police three-stage escalation enforcement procedure for the offence. Guidance was also issued in January 2010 which informed police forces of the revocation of the prescribed form of the PND.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which *(a)* public order offences, *(b)* traffic offences and *(c)* other offences a fixed penalty notice, a non-endorsable fixed penalty notice or a penalty notice for disorder may be issued by a police officer. [61398]

Nick Herbert: The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 allows a police officer to issue a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the fixed amount of £80 for the offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 of 'Using words, conduct likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress'.

Currently there are 25 other offences available under the PND scheme. A full list of PND offences is as follows.

The Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 allows the police to issue a fixed penalty notice for any offence in respect of a vehicle that has been made a fixed penalty offence by order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The full list is contained in Schedule 3 to the Act.

Penalty Notice for Disorder offences

Higher Tier Offences (£80)

Wasting police time, giving false report

Sending false message/persistently use a public electronic communications network in order to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety

Knowingly gives a false alarm to a person acting on behalf of a fire and rescue authority

Using words/conduct likely to cause fear of harassment, alarm or distress

Fire or throw firework(s)

Drunk and disorderly in a public place

Destroying or damaging property (under £300 and may only be issued on one occasion)

Retail Theft (under £100 and may only be issued on one occasion)

Breach of fireworks curfew (11 pm to 7 am)

Possession of a category 4 firework

Possession by a person under 18 of an adult firework in a public place

Sells or attempts to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk

Supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to a person aged under 18

Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18

Buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of person under 18

Buys or attempts to buy alcohol for consumption on relevant premises by person under 18

Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery

Possess a controlled drug of Class B—cannabis/cannabis resin. (May only be issued to offenders 18 years or over.)

Lower Tier Offences (£50)

Trespass on a railway

Throwing stones/matter/thing at a train or railway

Drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises

Consumption of alcohol in designated public place, contrary to requirement by constable not to do so

Deposit and leave litter

Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises

Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises

Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18

Immigration

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to the public purse of a judicial review of an immigration decision was in the latest period for which figures are available. [61401]

Damian Green: The estimated average cost of a judicial review up to the permission stage is approximately £1,500 to £2,000. Costs post permission can vary significantly after that according to the complexity of the case.

Immigration: Asylum

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for judicial review of decisions made by her Department in respect of immigration and asylum cases have been initiated in the last 12 months. [61400]

Damian Green: Figures for England and Wales from the Treasury Solicitor show that, in relation to immigration and asylum cases, 7,620 judicial reviews were opened over the 12 month period between June 2010 and May 2011.

Police: Pensions

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers working in the Calderdale division will be affected by proposed changes to police pensions. [61385]

Nick Herbert: As at 31 March 2010, there were 365 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in Calderdale basic command unit. Individual officers will have differing personal circumstances, making it impossible to assess how many might be affected by any future changes to police pensions.

Police: Sonae

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the date was of each occasion on which police officers were called to the Sonae factory in Kirkby in the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such call out was; [61309]

(2) on what date police investigations into the Sonae factory in Kirkby were initiated in the last 10 years; and what the cost was of each such investigation. [61310]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect this information. Operational decisions regarding the deployment of officers and use of resources are matters for the chief constable of the relevant police force.

Police: South Wales

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on equipping police forces in South Wales with Lantern fingerprint devices in the last 12 months. [61548]

Nick Herbert: Within South Wales Gwent police and Dyfed and Powys police both use the Lantern Service, but South Wales police do not.

The cost of providing the Lantern service to these forces for the past 12 months is £25,071. This has been funded by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Police: Travel

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* free and *(b)* concessionary travel arrangements are available to police officers; and what the cost to the public purse was of such arrangements in the latest period for which figures are available. [61349]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not collect the data requested. Such arrangements are a matter for agreement between the transport provider and the relevant police authority.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Finance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by how much his Department's grant to the British Council will change in percentage terms in each year to 2015. [60046]

Alistair Burt: The cumulative percentage change in the Grant In Aid budget from the British Council's 2010-11 budget is: -4.44% for 2011-12, -9.93% for 2012-13, -16.04% for 2013-14 and -22.07% for 2014-15.

The annual percentage change is: -4.44% for 2011-12 -5.50% for 2012-13,-6.11% for 2013-14 and -6.03% for 2014-15.

COE Commissioner for Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the functions of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights during the UK chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. [59438]

Mr Lidington: We do not have any plans to review the functions of the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights during the UK chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

Council of Europe

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed at his recent meeting with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. [59439]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed with Secretary-General Jagland the UK's objectives for our chairmanship of the Council of Europe from November 2011 to May 2012. These include reform of the European Court of Human Rights and wider reform of the Council of Europe. He also stressed our support for budget discipline.

Council of Europe: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 283-4W, on the Council of Europe: finance, if he will ensure that no further voluntary contributions are made by the UK to the Council of Europe or its institutions. [59436]

Mr Lidington: Voluntary contributions are given to the Council of Europe by member states for a range of activities, and can play an important role in the improvement of human rights, rule of law and democracy in Europe. We will continue to judge requests for voluntary contributions on their merits, including whether they generate sufficient value for money and contribute towards our foreign policy priorities.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will use the occasion of UK's chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to *(a)* advocate a reduction in the budget of the Council of Europe and its institutions and *(b)* review the current funding arrangements and the proportion of funding provided by the UK. [59437]

Mr Lidington: The Government are seeking to reduce the cost of our membership for all international organisations to which we belong. We communicated this objective to member state colleagues at the Council of Europe in June 2010. We will continue to work with other member states, the Secretary-General and others in our effort to deliver this objective.

Council of Europe: Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals were employed by the institutions of the Council of Europe on the latest date for which figures are available; and what proportion of the overall workforce of those institutions that figure represents. [60637]

Mr Lidington: As of 31 May 2011 there was a total of 2,151 permanent staff working in the institutions of the Council of Europe, 252 of whom were UK nationals. This is 11.7% of the total.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 584W, on Crown Relocations, on what date the contract with Crown Relocations was signed; on what date it started; and on what date it will expire. [58761]

Mr Lidington: The contract was signed on 15 July 2004 and commenced on 30 July 2004.

An extension was signed on 12 March 2007 for the period 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2010.

A further extension was signed on 21 October 2009 for 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011.

Another extension is in the process of being signed which will take the contract up to 30 April 2012. This will allow time for the current re-procurement activity to be completed.

Departmental Parental Leave

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy for staff is in respect of *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* rates of pay for (i) maternity and (ii) adoption leave. [61791]

Mr Bellingham: The FCO offers the statutory package of paid and unpaid leave for maternity and adoption. As an alternative to statutory provisions, the FCO offers Contractual Maternity Pay (CMP) or Contractual Adoption Pay (CAP) which pays full salary during a staff member's 26 weeks' Ordinary Maternity Leave (OML) or Ordinary Adoption Leave (OAL).

Staff must satisfy the following criteria in order to qualify for CMP or CAP:

- they are not employed on a standby, or short-notice appointment;
- they have been continuously employed by the FCO for at least one year at the point when they start their OML or OAL;
- they have complied with the notice requirements;
- they have not been on SUPL later than the 26 weeks preceding the 15th week before the expected week of confinement (EWC) for OML (unless they are returning on the date originally agreed for their return in which case this does not apply);
- they have confirmed in writing when giving notice that they intend to return to work after maternity leave or adoption leave and;
- they have confirmed in writing when giving notice that they will repay payments for CMP or CAP (over and above the amount equivalent to Statutory Maternity or Adoption Pay) if they do not return to work.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his EU counterparts on the level of regulation in EU legislation. [60727]

Mr Lidington: My Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) ministerial colleagues and I speak regularly with members of the European Commission and my EU counterparts on the level of regulation in EU legislation.

The UK's strategy for EU growth, outlined in 'Let's Choose Growth' published in March 2011 aims, among other things, to agree a new target to reduce the overall EU regulatory burden over the life of the Commission and make sure that all regulatory costs on businesses are offset by savings elsewhere.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to prevent Iranian-owned ships circumventing sanctions. [60034]

Mr Hague: On 23 May, the EU strengthened its sanctions against Iran by adding over 100 more entities to its regulation, including 40 or so entities owned or controlled by Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines. The Prime Minister, Minister for Europe and I have held discussions with partners about the implementation of these measures. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raise our concerns about possible sanctions breaches with the relevant overseas authorities as and when they arrive.

Pakistan: Taliban

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of Taliban fighters on the territory of Pakistan. [60159]

Mr Hague: Given the highly complex dynamics of the conflict in Afghanistan and the porous border with Pakistan, it is impossible to provide numbers of the Afghan Taliban presence in Pakistan.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the voting rights of prisoners with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. [59440]

Mr Lidington: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs reminded the Secretary-General of our concerns regarding the voting rights of prisoners during their meeting on 7 June.

Saudi Arabia: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions he has discussed proposals for democratic reform with his Saudi counterpart. [60036]

Mr Hague: I have raised reform and other issues connected with the 'Arab Spring' with Prince Saud, most recently during Prince Saud's visit to the UK in March.

Somalia

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government applies in determining whether to recognise a state; what assessment he has made of the merits of recognising Somaliland as a state against each criterion; and if he will make a statement. [61371]

Mr Bellingham: The normal criteria for recognition as a state remain as described in the written answer dated 16 November 1989, *Official Report*, column 494, by the then Under-Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr Sainsbury.

The UK keeps its policy under review in light of these criteria and various UN Security Council Resolutions on Somalia, which reaffirm its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

Sudan: Investment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on private investment in Sudan. [61377]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has had no specific discussions on private investment. However, the UK has no barriers to private investment in Sudan and the British Government are strongly supporting the initiative by Norway and Turkey to co-host an international investment and engagement conference for Sudan later in the year. The Foreign Secretary did discuss trade issues with Sudanese Foreign Minister Karti when they met on 6 June. As the Secretary of State made clear on that day, it is important for the UK to see both Sudan and South Sudan emerge at the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as two economically viable and co-operating states, living in peace and stability.

Sudan: Overseas Trade

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his US counterparts on trade restrictions in Sudan. [61379]

Mr Bellingham: I met with Johnnie Carson, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs on 29 May. I made clear that the sanctions imposed by the US continue to be a serious block to British banks to operate in Sudan, causing problems for British NGO groups and staff, and other organisations to utilise the international banking system when dealing with or living in Sudan. US regulations contain a number of exemptions and authorisations for activities and transactions that would otherwise be prohibited under U.S. sanctions against Sudan, particularly with respect to humanitarian assistance. I have asked for greater clarity on these exemptions for the benefit of the British Banking Association, and its members. We understand that post-independence these restrictions will not apply to South Sudan.

Syria: Oil

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Italy, *(c)* France and *(d)* the Netherlands on steps to prevent the import of oil from Syria. [61801]

Alistair Burt: We have had no discussions with Germany, Italy, France or the Netherlands on steps to prevent the import of oil from Syria.

Syria: Sanctions

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to impose further sanctions on Syria; and if he will make a statement. [61802]

Alistair Burt: The Government, together with our EU partners, are working to expand restrictive measures on the Syrian regime with a view to achieving a fundamental change of policy should the Syrian leadership choose not to change swiftly its current path of violent repression against the civilian population.

The Government have taken a prominent role in introducing an EU travel ban and assets freeze on 23 individuals, including President Assad, in the Syrian regime. We utterly condemn the indiscriminate violence perpetrated by the Syrian security forces against peaceful demonstrators. President Assad's speech on 20 June was disappointing and unconvincing. If President Assad is to restore any credibility the Syrian people need to see concrete action, not vague promises. We have been clear that rapid and real implementation of substantial reforms, addressing the legitimate demands of peaceful Syrian protesters, is what is urgently needed. There must also be an immediate end to violence by Syrian security forces, the release of all political prisoners, an end to the torture and abuse of those who remain in detention and access given to international humanitarian agencies.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 40-41WS, on Turks and Caicos Islands, what recent assessment he has made of the likelihood of the Turks and Caicos Islands meeting the milestones prior to 2012. [61478]

Mr Bellingham: There has not been sufficient progress to date against the milestones to conclude that they will be met prior to 2012. However, following a visit to London last week by a Turks and Caicos Islands delegation, good progress is now being made on the new Turks and Caicos Islands constitution.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the likely timetable for the restoration of self-government to the Turks and Caicos Islands. [61468]

Mr Bellingham: It remains our intention to hold elections in 2012 subject to progress against the milestones that I and the Minister of State, Department for International Development, identified in December.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Dr Poulter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of regional air passenger duty rates on airlines operating in London and the South East. [61424]

Justine Greening: The Government undertook a consultation on air passenger duty from 23 March to 17 June 2011. The Government will consider the views and evidence submitted by interested parties and will publish a summary of responses in the autumn.

Big Society Bank

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what terms loans are to be offered by the big society bank; and whether such loans will be on a commercial basis. [54883]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The big society bank's mission is to help grow a sustainable social investment market as set out in the Government's social investment strategy published on 14 February 2011. To this end, the BSB will look to achieve returns against a double bottom line of social and financial impact. The big society bank is an independent organisation and will develop its own investment strategy.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61181]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury currently rents office accommodation in Rosebery Court, Norwich from the Cabinet Office. Under a recent machinery of government change initiative, Cabinet Office assumed responsibility for the whole of that building. Treasury is in the process of reducing its holding there and is in discussion with Cabinet Office to agree final space allocation and rental figures. It is anticipated that this action will be completed in the next two-three months.

Insolvency

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was returned to HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors as a result of insolvency proceedings in each of the last 10 years. [61699]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is not available centrally and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

HMRC only initiates bankruptcy or winding up action where it believes this is the best course of action to protect the interests of the Exchequer in respect of a particular debt.

HMRC does not take such action lightly but will not hesitate to do so when that is the right way to protect tax revenues.

Landfill Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effect on local communities of any reduction in the rate of landfill tax; and if he will make a statement. [61149]

Justine Greening: The Government are committed to increasing the standard rate of landfill tax by £8 per tonne each year until 2014, and to ensuring that rate will not fall below £80 per tonne from 2014 to 2020.

A clear trajectory for the rate of landfill tax provides businesses and local authorities with confidence to make long term investments in alternative waste management facilities that will ultimately benefit both the environment and local communities.

Northern Rock

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to complete the sale of Northern Rock plc. [61129]

Mr Hoban: The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) remit. UKFI has been looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and has been exploring options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition. UKFI will provide advice on the future of Northern Rock plc to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who will make the final decision.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), launched the sale process of Northern Rock plc on 15 June in his Mansion House speech. Any party, including mutuals could enter a bid for Northern Rock. At this stage all viable options remain available for further consideration including remutualisation; however, a sale is being explored as the first option. No timeframe has been set for the return of Northern Rock plc to the private sector. The Chancellor will take a decision when there is a proposition in the taxpayers' best interests.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effects of mutualisation of Northern Rock plc on the level of return to the public purse which may be achieved. [61130]

Mr Hoban: The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) remit. UKFI has been looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and has been exploring options based on maximising value for the taxpayer, maintaining financial stability and paying due regard to promoting competition.

This included evaluating the return of Northern Rock to the mutual sector by combining it with an existing mutual or through standalone remutualisation. In conducting this analysis, UKFI, Northern Rock and their advisers Deutsche Bank assessed the value to the taxpayer that would arise from pursuing different mutual options.

As announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), in his Mansion House Speech on 15 June the analysis conducted to date has demonstrated that the best value for the taxpayer is likely to be achieved by selling Northern Rock. This could be to a mutual organisation. At this stage all viable options remain available for further consideration including remutualisation; however, a sale is being explored as the first option.

Tax Allowances: Uprating

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 805W, on personal taxation, if he will estimate the difference in the personal taxation payable by an individual in each tax band attributable to

indexation of personal tax allowance by *(a)* the consumer prices index and *(b)* the retail prices index in each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16, taking account of the increases in the personal allowance in 2012-13 and future years. [61148]

Mr Gauke: Budget 2011 announced that the personal allowance for those aged under 65 would increase by £630 from April 2012, taking it from £7,475 in 2011-12 to £8,105 in 2012-13. The personal allowance will increase from 2013-14 by at least the equivalent of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) until the Government's goal of increasing the personal allowance to £10,000 is achieved.

Taking account of this announcement means there will be no alternative indexation arrangements on the level of the personal allowance in 2012-13. Starting from the announced £8,105 personal allowance in 2012-13, hypothetical estimates of the maximum increase in income tax liability attributable to indexation of the personal allowance for those aged under 65 only by CPI rather than RPI from 2013-14 are shown in the table. Separate estimates are provided for basic rate, higher rate and additional rate taxpayers.

Calculations assume income refers to employment income only.

	Marginal tax rate		
	Basic rate	*Higher rate*	*Additional rate*[1]
2013-14	£18	£0[1] to £36	£0
2014-15	£44	£0[1] to £88	£0
2015-16	£74	£0[1] to £148	£0

[1] The personal allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 of income above £100,000. Therefore additional rate and some higher rate taxpayers will have a personal allowance of zero.

Ignoring the announcement that the personal allowance will rise to £8,105 in 2012-13, hypothetical impacts on tax liabilities are as given in previous answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 805W, on personal taxation.

These estimates are based on the Office for Budget Responsibility's March 2011 forecast assumptions for RPI and CPI.

Taxation: Fraud

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the incidences of fraud and error recorded by HM Revenue and Customs were attributable to *(a)* customer error, *(b)* administrative error and *(c)* fraud in the latest period for which figures are available. [61298]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs do not record data on fraud and error in this way and therefore it is not possible to provide an answer to the question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Repayments

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average sum recovered by HM Revenue and Customs was from each individual taxpayer or tax credit claimant in respect of *(a)* unpaid tax, *(b)* overpaid tax credit, *(c)* interest and *(d)* penalties in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; [61183]

(2) how much of *(a)* unpaid tax and *(b)* overpaid tax credits were repaid following a (i) appeal and (ii) complaint in the last year for which figures are available. [61240]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available and could be researched only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will assess the factors underlying the difference between the estimates made by private sector credit reference agencies and those of the Electoral Commission of the number of unregistered voters. [61661]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office is funding the Electoral Commission to carry out research to provide a robust national measure of completeness and accuracy of the registers. This study will report towards the end of 2011. Further research will be conducted to measure completeness and accuracy both before and after the move to individual electoral registration.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 752W, on voting rights: prisoners, if he will request that the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers postpone any action until after the UK Chairmanship commences in November 2011. [61188]

Mr Harper: The European Court of Human Rights' decision in Greens *v.* MT obliges the Government to

"introduce legislative proposals to amend section 3 of the 1983 Act and, if appropriate, section 8 of the 2002 Act"

by 11 October 2011. The Committee of Ministers, which is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Court's judgments, has no power to change deadlines fixed by the Court. The UK will provide the Committee of Ministers with an update in advance of their next meeting in September.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 752W, on voting rights: prisoners, what the latest date is on which the Government could introduce legislation to fulfil the requirements of the judgements on prisoner voting rights. [61189]

Mr Harper Pursuant to my answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 752W, in the words of the Greens and MT judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, which became final on 11 April, the Government has six months to "bring forward legislative proposals" to end the current blanket ban on prisoners voting. The Government are considering the next steps and I will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 752W, on voting rights: prisoners, whether he has identified any legal and constitutional mechanisms which would enable the UK to maintain its existing position on the voting rights of prisoners. [61190]

Mr Harper: The ECtHR found in the case of Hirst (No.2) *v.* UK, that the current blanket ban on convicted and sentenced prisoners voting was contrary to Article 3, Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to free and fair elections). The more recent Greens *v.* MT judgment gave the UK six months from 11 February 2011 to "bring forward legislative proposals" to end the current blanket ban on prisoners voting.

The UK is obliged to implement judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Article 46 Section 1 of the Convention, states that each signatory shall

"undertake to abide by the final judgment of the Court in any case to which they are parties."

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 488-9W, on voting rights: prisoners, if he will assess the effect of the absence of details of the legislative changes which would be required to satisfy the Court in the judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the voting rights of prisoners; and if he will ask the Committee of Ministers to consider a referral under Article 46(3) to provide further clarity on the interpretation of the judgments. [61191]

Mr Harper: The European Court of Human Rights judgment in Greens and MT *v.* UK recognises that a wide range of policy alternatives are available to the UK to achieve compliance with the convention.

The Government are considering the next steps and I will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital following a suspected diagnosis of alcohol abuse in the last quarter for which figures are available. [61304]

Anne Milton: The information is in the following table.

Number of finished admission episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis of selected ICD-10 codes[2], by cause code[3] for those aged under 18, for 2009-10 Q4 - January, February and March 2010

Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector			
ICD-10 code	*X65*	*Other*	*Total*
F10.1	0	14	14
F10 (excluding F10.1) and K70	1	777	778
T51.0	21	20	41
T51 (excluding T51.0)	11	13	24
Total	33	824	857

[1] Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[2] Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital. ICD-10 codes used:
F10.1 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, harmful use
F10.0 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, acute intoxication
F10.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, dependence syndrome
F10.3 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state
F10.4 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state with delirium
F10.5 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, psychotic disorder
F10.6 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, amnesic syndrome
F10.7 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, residual and late onset psychotic disorder
F10.8 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, other mental and behavioural disorders
F10.9 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, unspecified mental and behavioural disorders
K70 Alcoholic liver disease
T51.-0 Toxic effect of alcohol
T51.1 Toxic effect of alcohol, Methanol
T51.2 Toxic effect of alcohol, 2-Propanol
T51.3 Toxic effect of alcohol, Fusel oil
T51.8 Toxic effect of alcohol, other alcohol
T51.9 Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified alcohol
[3] Cause code
A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES.
Cause code used:
X65—Intentional self-poisoning by exposure to alcohol
Note:
Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Breast Cancer: Screening

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with which primary care trusts his Department is working to implement the plan to move from film to digital breast screening services; and in what capacity; [61479]

(2) whether he has set a deadline for the completion of the move from film to digital breast screening services. [61497]

Paul Burstow: We are in the process of extending the national health service breast screening programme (BSP) to women aged 47 to 73. The "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12" confirms that all local screening programmes should continue this extension.

One of the criteria for extension of the NHS BSP is that local screening programmes should have at least one digital mammography (DM) machine in place before they begin to extend. As at the end of May, 83% of local programmes had at least one DM machine and 35% were fully digital.

We have advised programmes to move to DM as quickly as possible as the independent Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening has said that running both film and DM together is inefficient.

Clinical Physiologists: Regulation

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on introducing statutory regulation of clinical physiology. [61345]

Anne Milton: Following a search of the Department's correspondence and parliamentary database for 2011 we have identified eight letters and four parliamentary questions relating to the statutory regulation of clinical physiology.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61178]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of office property owned or leased by the Department outside Greater London are as follows:

Address	*Basis*	*Utilisation (percentage)*	*Capital value (£)*	*Annual rent (£)*	*Length of lease (years)*	*Lease end date*
Hexagon House, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 5SE	Freehold	93.70	[1]2,156,157	n/a	n/a	n/a
1st Floor Hembury House, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter, EX2 5AZ	Lease	90.50	n/a	[2]129,353	2	25 September 2013
Units 8 and 9 Witney Way, Boldon Business Park, Tyne And Wear, NE35 9PE	Lease	59	n/a	[2]39,999	21	30 September 2014
Prospect House, Fishing Line Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6EW	Lease	87.60	n/a	[2]153,606	7	16 January 2013
1st Floor Block B, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HR	Lease	93	n/a	[2]111,039	10	31 October 2012
Vantage,40 Aire Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS14HT	Serviced office	98	n/a	[3]—	5	31 March 2015
1st and 2nd Floors, Princes Exchange, Princes Square, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS14HY	Serviced office	98	n/a	[3]—	5	31 December 2015
1st and 2nd Floors, 1 Whitehall Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 4HR	Serviced office	98	n/a	[3]—	5	31 March 2015
Castleview House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2DN	Memorandum of terms of occupation	100	n/a	[2]55,000	3	31 October 2012
Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE	Memorandum of terms of occupation	75	n/a	[2]5,813,000	20	31 March 2018
Premier House, 60 Caversham Road, Reading, RG1 7EB	Lease	66	n/a	[2]168,000	5	29 April 2015
3, Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BN	Memorandum of terms of occupation	100	n/a	£88,000	1	31 March 2012
3rd Floor. Block C, Cumberland Place, Park Row, Nottingham NG16HJ	Memorandum of terms of occupation	100	n/a	[2]165,716	4	16 February 2015

[1] At 2005 prices
[2] Incl VAT
[3] Cannot be split out, all inclusive rate including utilities

The properties include serviced accommodation and memorandum of terms of occupation where the Department is renting space from another Government body.

Departmental Parental Leave

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy for staff is in respect of *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* rates of pay for (i) maternity and (ii) adoption leave. [61793]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's policies in respect of maternity leave and adoption leave are set out in the relevant current documents on the Department's intranet, Delphi. Those documents will be placed in the Library.

Eligibility for maternity pay for departmental staff is as follows:

The member of staff must complete an application form making a statement that they intend to return to work in the Department after their maternity leave, and must agree to repay any contractual payment made during that period if they fail to return. The member of staff must be in paid service, at the time the maternity leave begins, and must have completed at least one year's such service within the civil service. That service need not be continuous. (Staff in receipt of sick pay at pension rate are not regarded as being in paid service).

The rates of pay allowed to eligible staff for maternity leave are 26 weeks maternity leave on full pay and a subsequent 13 weeks paid at statutory maternity pay (SMP) rates for the period of continuous absence before and after childbirth. Even if ineligible for paid maternity leave, a member of staff still has a statutory right to 52 weeks' unpaid leave, and may qualify for SMP or maternity allowance.

Similarly, eligibility for adoption leave in the Department is as follows:

The member of staff should be newly matched with a child for adoption by an approved adoption agency and have a 'matching certificate' from that agency. The member of staff should complete an application form stating that they intend to return to work in the Department after the adoption leave period, and agree to repay any payment made during that period if they fail to return. The member of staff must be in paid service at the time that the adoption leave begins and have completed at least one year's such service within the civil service. The latter time need not be continuous.

If the staff member has not completed one year's service but has completed at least 26 weeks service, they will still be entitled to a reduced period of paid adoption leave. In these circumstances, up to 25 days' paid leave will be allowed when the child first comes under the staff member's full time care. A portion of this leave may be allocated for situations in advance of the start of full-time care. Again, staff in receipt of sick pay at pension rate are not regarded as being in paid service.

Rates of pay, allowed to fully eligible staff, for adoption leave are 26 weeks' paid adoption leave on full contractual pay , a subsequent 13 weeks paid at statutory adoption pay (SAP) and 13 weeks' unpaid leave for the period of continuous leave before and after adoption.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60332]

Mr Simon Burns: The regulations from 1 March to 31 May, which have been implemented by the Department are in the table.

The majority of regulations are public sector, therefore are zero cost. Those regulations which could potentially impact business or civil society organisations impose no additional costs.

Statutory Instruments Title	*Number*
The Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) Amendment Regulations 2011	2011/520
The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Amendment Regulations 2011	2011/518
The National Health Services (Dental Charges) Amendment Regulations 2011	2011/519
The National Health Service Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/591
The National Health Service Trusts (Originating Capital) Order 2011	2011/624
The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/680
The Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust (Transfer of Trust Property) Order 2011	2011/689
The National Assistance (Sums for Personal Requirements) Amendment (England) Regulations 2011	2011/724
The Walsall Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/791
The Derbyshire Community Health Services National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/798
The Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/799
The Leeds Community Healthcare National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/800
The Lincolnshire Community Health Services National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/802
The Solent National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/804
The Wirral Community National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Order 2011	2011/805
The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/890
The Hereford Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/891
The Medicinal Products (Herbal Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/915
The Medicinal Products (Herbal Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/915
The Hull and Goole Port Health Authority Order 2011	2011/939
The Solihull Primary Care Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/1084
The National Health Service (Primary Dental Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2011	2011/1182
The Northampton General Hospital National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/1183
The Whittington Hospital National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/1184
The East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust (Establishment) and the Eastbourne Hospitals National Health Service Trust and Hastings and Rother National Health Service Trust (Dissolution) Amendment Order 20T1	2011/1185
The Contracting Out (Local Authorities Social Services Functions) (England) Order 2011	
The Health Act 2009 (Commencement No.3) (Amendment) Order 2011	2011/1255 (C.49)
The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Display and Specialist Tobacconists) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2011/1256
The Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Community Healthcare National Health Service Trust (Establishment) Amendment Order 2011	2011/1276
The Medicines (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2011	2011/1327

Drugs: Misuse

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has had discussions with the chief superintendants overseeing the areas covered by the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial pilots conducted by the National Addiction Centre on the effects of the pilots on offending rates; and if he will make a statement; [61312]

(2) whether his Department plans to tender for new injectable treatment contracts in the next three months; and what *(a)* methods and *(b)* data his Department has used to assess the model used in the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial conducted by the National Addiction Centre; [61313]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* long-term health outcomes for individuals, *(b)* effect on overdose rates and *(c)* long-term financial cost-benefit to the NHS arising from the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial pilots conducted by the National Addiction Centre; and if he will make a statement. [61314]

Anne Milton: The results of the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial were published in May 2010 in *The Lancet* (*Lancet* 2010:1885-95).

The paper looked at outcomes for people after six months in treatment. The paper concluded that; for a group of people who had failed to benefit from previous treatment; supervised injectable heroin leads to significantly lower use of street heroin than do supervised injectable methadone or optimised oral methadone. Treatment retention was improved and severe adverse events were reduced. Further reports on the findings of the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial pilots, including their cost-effectiveness and impact on crime, are being prepared by the National Addiction Centre.

Local Drug Partnerships in the areas where the trial was conducted whose membership includes representatives of the police will have had the opportunity to discuss the results of the trial.

The 2011-12 Action plan for the National Treatment Agency for Substance misuse (NTA) asks them to explore whether the model demonstrated in the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial can be made to work for the small number of people who may benefit, in a way that is consistent with the best use of ever tighter resources. The NTA will tender new injectable treatment contracts, subject to finances being agreed.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme: Licensing

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total licence fee is that his Department paid for each local family nurse partnership in the last year for which figures are available. [61825]

Anne Milton: The total figure spent on the licence for new places in local family nurse partnerships in 2010-11 was £12,832. The licence costs $15 per client, covering the full two and a half years the client is receiving the programme, which equates to $6 per client each year.

Health Services: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the policy of his Department is on the application to hospitals and care homes of Government buying standards on sustainably-sourced fish and seafood. [61605]

Anne Milton: The Department recognises the Government buying standards for food and catering as good sustainable procurement practice. As such, it encourages national health service trusts, care homes and procurement organisations to adopt them, where appropriate.

Hepatitis: Nurses

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of hepatitis C specialist nurses per head of population in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [61559]

Anne Milton: Hepatitis C specialist nurses are not separately identified in the NHS Information Centre workforce census. Local national health service organisations with their knowledge of the health needs of their local populations are best placed to determine the staff needed to meet those needs.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments will be made by each hospital to meet private finance initiative contracts in 2011-12; and what payments were made by each hospital for this purpose in each of the last five years. [61694]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the annual Unitary Payments made under every signed health sector private finance initiative contract over the lifetime of the contract can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pfi_signed_projects_list_march2011.xls

These are the latest figures collected from each Department for the March 2011 Budget Report. The Unitary Payment is paid by the national health service body to the private sector counterparty to the contract and covers all the services provided under the contract—initial construction, so the capital costs (repayment of principal and financing); building maintenance; and in many cases the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security. The payments are subject to meeting agreed performance and quality standards and the estimated amounts include an annual uprate assumption for inflation of 2.5% for future years.

Meat: Hygiene

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 878W, on meat: hygiene, if he will freeze charges to abattoirs pending the outcome of the European Commission's review. [61138]

Anne Milton: Policy responsibility for meat hygiene controls lies with the Food Standards Agency (FSA). We are advised by the FSA that full cost recovery for meat official controls complies with FSA policy, Government guidelines, and current European Union legislation. The European Commission's review of EU charging rules is expected to reach a conclusion in the first quarter of 2012. This is expected to lead to a legislative proposal, which would then be subject to negotiation and to European Parliament and Council approval. The EU Review process is likely to take at least two more years before any agreed changes are

incorporated within EU legislation. Any implications for United Kingdom charging policy that may arise from the EU review will be considered at the time.

Mental Illness: Cannabis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of cannabis users who suffer from mental health problems as a result of using the drug. [61226]

Anne Milton: The Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs in their report Cannabis classification and Public Health published in May 2008 states that:

'in some people, however, intoxication leads to attacks of paranoia and confused feelings...the prevalence of these acute psychological reactions to cannabis is uncertain'.

In relation to long-term psychotic illness, the report states that:

'on balance the council considers that the evidence points to a probable but weak causal link between psychotic illness and cannabis use. Whether such a casual link will become stronger with the wider use of higher potency cannabis products remain uncertain'.

Midwives

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* each NHS trust in Cumbria in each of the last five years. [61733]

Anne Milton: The following table includes the information requested.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England, the North West strategic health authority area and each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

					Headcount
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England	24,469	25,093	25,664	26,451	26,825
Of which:					
North West Strategic Health Authority area	3,959	4,010	3,892	3,855	3,947
Of which:					
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	159	165	163	160	172
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	178	173	165	169	171

Notes:
1. North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust and University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust are the only national health service organisations that employ midwives in the Cumbria area.
2. *Data Quality:* The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication here: www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census.

NHS: EU Law

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the legal advice he has received on the position of the NHS in respect of EU competition law under his revised legislative proposals for reorganisation of the NHS. [61691]

Mr Simon Burns: Legal advice was integral to the Department's advice to Ministers on the introduction of the Health and Social Care Bill. However, no separate legal advice has been commissioned by officials on the impact of the Bill on the application of European Union competition law to the national health service. This is because the Bill does not change EU competition law and the Government's proposals made in response to the NHS Future Forum's report would not change this position.

Tobacco: Olympic Games 2012

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has had discussions with the London Organisation Committee of the Olympic Games on the provision of technical support by the World Health Organisation for implementation of a tobacco-free policy at the London 2012 Olympics. [61436]

Anne Milton: Officials in the Department for Health and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have discussed our shared aspiration for a tobacco-free Games with the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG). At this stage, LOCOG has not considered the role of the World Health Organisation in supporting this aspiration.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Consultants

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 105W, on the Audit Commission: consultants, what the name is of each councillor paid by the Audit Commission for consultancy work in the last three years for which figures are available; and how much has been paid to each such councillor in that period. [61782]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 23 June 2011:

Your parliamentary question has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission has made payments to councillors from April 2008 to March 2011, as detailed in the appendix.

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Peer Clearing House sourced and accredited councillor peers.

The payments were for peer councillor contribution to the nationally agreed programmes of council corporate assessments, as part of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) judgements that were being formulated for 2010. Input by elected members was a key component of the process to ensure all judgements took full account of peer and practitioner experience.

Peer Councillors were paid a standard national daily rate for each day they were on site. In 2008/09 this varied from £200 to £300 per day, depending on the type of work. In 2009/10 this became a single rate of £300. Travel costs were paid in addition.

£

Name	Amount paid 2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Alan Jarrett	0.00	613.09	602.80	1,215.89
Andrew Judge	3,869.10	0.00	0.00	3,869.10
Ann Hartley	0.00	70.00	323.40	393.40
Chris Roberts	38.90	0.00	0.00	38.90
Christine Channon	906.80	170.79	300.00	1,377.59
David Dixon	4,109.04	0.00	0.00	4,109.04
David Williams	4,302.19	808.21	776.00	5,886.40
Gareth Barnard (Dr)	0.00	2,632.18	918.70	3,550.88
Geoff Williams	672.00	0.00	0.00	672.00
Glen Sanderson	10,665.91	980.70	2,912.90	14,559.51
Graham Chapman	0.00	351.70	4,950.12	5,301.82
Jane Evison	399.62	0.00	0.00	399.62
Jeremy Hilton	3,964.32	650.12	1,685.93	6,300.37
Jerry Roodhouse	3,217.90	900.00	527.00	4,644.90
John Kerr	0.00	1,057.80	527.00	1,584.80
John Whelan	3,984.80	0.00	0.00	3,984.80
Jon Collins	8,756.47	150.00	327.50	9,233.97
Malcolm Grimston	0.00	3,256.46	2,060.17	5,316.63
Marco Longhi	17,378.50	2,607.84	2,046.00	22,032.34
Mike Parsons	523.92	0.00	0.00	523.92
Paul Crossley	5,867.14	0.00	0.00	5,867.14
Paul Godwin	1,519.46	0.00	0.00	1,519.46
Peter Box	5,275.00	0.00	0.00	5,275.00
Robert Light	4,609.63	1,237.40	0.00	5,847.03
Roger Lawrence	132.00	0.00	0.00	132.00
Roy Mayhew	314.48	0.00	0.00	314.48
Susan Dungworth	7,124.50	0.00	0.00	7,124.50
Terry Shields	4,610.40	0.00	0.00	4,610.40
Terry Stacy	4,856.10	177.80	100.40	5,134.30
Tony Newman	0.00	0.00	414.20	414.20
Trevor Jones	0.00	184.24	300.00	484.24
Tudor Evans	0.00	0.00	1,511.91	1,511.91
Alan Connett	0.00	446.03	73.40	519.43
John Commons	0.00	1,416.23	1,200.00	2,616.23
Clyde Loakes	0.00	446.60	0.00	446.60
Sue Derbyshire	0.00	749.60	478.80	1,228.40
Stephen Knight	0.00	423.40	0.00	423.40
P D Bettison	5,380.21	0.00	0.00	5,380.21
Menhoob Khan	0.00	407.16	0.00	407.16
Chris Pattison	11,600.08	437.00	0.00	12,037.08
	114,078.47	20,174.35	22,036.23	156,289.05

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61719]

Robert Neill: Over the spending review period, the Department has allocated £46.2 million of restructuring funding to its arm's length bodies, of which £33.0 million is for 2011-12.

As outlined in my Department's press notice of 16 March 2011, our plans to reduce and reform the Department's arm's length bodies will save around £170 million of taxpayers money from DCLG budgets and a further £60 million from the budget for local government spending by 2014-15.

Faith Communities Consultative Council

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name is of each member of the Faith Communities Consultative Council. [55499]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 13 May 2011]:* The Government have decided to discontinue the Faith Communities Consultative Council. We believe that it did not add value to the effective arrangements that Departments already have in place for consulting faith communities on policy.

Our preference is to work with faith communities in a manner that is strategic and appropriate for particular situations. My Department will continue to liaise individually with national faith communities that provided members of the Council, and to convene ad hoc groupings to discuss policy as necessary. Officials from various Departments will continue to attend meetings of the Faith Communities Forum of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom, in order to engage with faith communities collectively.

The Government recognises the vital contribution that faith communities make to civil society, and we are committed to facilitating linkages and tackling barriers that faith groups face. For instance my Department has invested £5 million in the Church Urban Fund's Near Neighbours programme, using the local infrastructure of the Church of England to build productive relationships between people from different faith backgrounds in four key geographical areas.

Homelessness: Expenditure

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department is spending on measures to reduce homelessness in 2011-12. [61631]

Grant Shapps: We are maintaining investment in homelessness grant at £100 million a year for each of the next four years. As part of this grant, we have announced allocations of £81.5 million for local authorities and £18.5 million for the voluntary sector to support their work to tackle and prevent homelessness.

This includes £8.45 million allocated to the Greater London Authority for the provision of rough sleeping services in London and £4 million allocated to the homelessness organisation Crisis to help single homeless people access the private rented sector.

We are also providing £37.5 million under the Homelessness Change Programme over the three years from April 2012 to improve hostels for rough sleepers and ensure that those coming off the streets get the support they need.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role is of local enterprise partnerships in assessing bids to the regional growth fund. [59519]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The local enterprise partnerships have no formal role in assessing bids to the regional growth fund. However, they can have a powerful role in their own areas to make bids on their own behalf, especially for programmes, and in co-ordinating and supporting other local bids.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 642W, on apprentices, what estimate he has made of the number of learners who will be funded by the allocation to providers to deliver level three and above qualifications for those over the age of 24. [61361]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The budget for apprenticeships, notwithstanding the additional funding announced at this year's Budget, is sufficient to fund 227,000 adult apprenticeship starts in academic year 2011/12. 'Skills for Sustainable Growth'[1] and 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for Further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. Accordingly, the take-up of apprenticeships by level follows employer demand and we are not able to provide estimates of the number of advanced level apprenticeships (at level 3) that will be delivered.

[1] Skills for Sustainable Growth published by BIS:
http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2010/Nov/skills-for-sustainable-growth

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to which states the Government has licensed the sale of defence equipment and armaments in each of the last two financial years. [59812]

Mr Prisk: This information is published in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. military, other) and a summary of the items covered by these licences. They are available to view on the Strategic Export Controls: Reports and Statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

Currently this includes information up to 31 December 2010. Information covering 1 January 2011 to 31 March will be published in July this year.

Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* encourage dynamism in the enterprise start-up market, *(b)* strengthen business support networks and *(c)* increase business productivity. [61106]

Mr Prisk: In January, the Department published "Bigger, Better Business: Helping small firms start, grow and prosper", setting out what we are doing to ensure start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises can access the information, networks and advice they need.

In March, Government published "The Plan for Growth", setting out a radical plan to get the UK economy growing.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the barriers to starting a business in the UK. [61110]

Mr Prisk: The Department's Household Survey of Entrepreneurship, which was last conducted in 2007, collects data on barriers to enterprise:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file46964.doc

BIS also sponsors the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) UK survey which collects data on barriers to start-up and the issues facing nascent businesses, on an annual basis. Additionally, the World Bank Doing Business Report assesses the ease of starting a business in 183 countries, including the UK which was ranked 17th out of 183 in the 2011 report.

Alongside this research, Ministers and officials regularly engage with would-be entrepreneurs, start-ups and the small business representative bodies to discuss barriers to starting a business.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to help businesses increase their performance in respect of *(a)* innovation, *(b)* management skills and *(c)* the adoption of best practice. [61112]

Mr Willetts: This Department helps businesses increase their innovation performance through a range of measures including the work of partner bodies such as the Technology Strategy Board, which is the Government's prime channel through which we support business-led technology innovation, and the Design Council.

The Technology Strategy Board is establishing a network of elite technology and innovation centres to commercialise new and emerging technologies—the High Value Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Centre has been launched and others in the areas of cell therapy and offshore renewable energy are planned. The Technology Strategy Board also delivers a national collaborative R&D and grant for R&D schemes, which are focused on supporting research and development projects in businesses, and the Small Business Research Initiative, which aims to provide business opportunities for innovative companies while solving the needs of Government Departments.

The Design Council helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop their capacity for design and innovation through the Designing Demand programme which helps SMEs become more competitive, increase their profits and boost performance through the strategic use of design.

This Department also supports R&D tax credits, which provides tax relief for companies undertaking R&D work.

Leadership and management skills are recognised as key elements in driving business performance and raising productivity, with strong links to the better utilisation of skills and high performing workplaces.

In 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' this Department emphasised the importance of improving leadership and management skills and set out our intention to work with employers, employer bodies, the TUC, ACAS, and others to develop a framework for improving leadership and management skills to encourage high performance working and better use of skills.

We are continuing to provide the SME Leadership and Management Programme with priority for support being given to those small and medium-sized businesses that demonstrate a potential for growth, and are looking closely at how best this programme can be integrated or aligned with Business Coaching for Growth from January 2012.

The primary objective of both the new framework, which will be published later this year, and the SME Leadership and Management Programme is to encourage all businesses to invest more in order to improve leadership and management skills to drive up their own performance and help raise overall productivity throughout the economy.

This Department helps companies increase their performance by the adoption of best practice through its support for the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS). MAS helps small and medium-sized manufacturing firms achieve big improvements in their productivity and competitiveness by providing direct access to manufacturing experts who provide professional advice and practical, hands-on support. A programme of visits to best practice exemplars is one of the services offered by MAS.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of businesses reported to his Department that growth of their business was a priority in each year since 2005. [61119]

Mr Prisk: The BIS Small Business Survey provides information on the proportion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) employers (with one to 249 employees) that aim to grow their business in the next two to three years. Table 1 shows that in 2010 nearly three-quarters (74%) of SME employers aimed to grow their business within the next two to three years (or approximately 880,000 businesses).

Table 1: Proportion of SME employers aiming to grow the business

	Aim to grow in next two to three years (percentage)
2005	56
2006/07	65
2007/08	67
2010	74

Source:
BIS Small Business Survey 2005-10—SME employers only

BIS also regularly examines a range of other surveys including those of business organisations like the Confederation of Business Industry (CBI) to better understand the growth ambition of all businesses, not just SMEs. Figures for 2005 to 2011 from the CBI Quarterly Services Sector Survey showing the proportion of service sector businesses expecting to expand their business in the year ahead are shown in the following table:

Table 2: Expectation of growth in next 12 months

Survey period	*Services sector (%)*
May 2005	50
May 2006	53
May 2007	45
May 2008	39
May 2009	29
May 2010	52
May 2011	50

Businesses: Young People

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number and proportion of *(a)* young people aged 16 to 24 and *(b)* people aged over 25 who considered going into business in each year since 2005. [61099]

Mr Prisk: BIS does not hold the precise information to answer this question. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor provides a measure of the proportion of adults in the UK who intend to start a business within the next three years. Data has been provided for 18 to 24-year-olds and the total population (18 to 64-year-olds) only.

The Table shows that in 2009, 5.5% of 18 to 24-year-olds who were not already engaged in enterprise activity in the UK intended to start up a business within the next three years, compared to 4.4% of the adult population overall. 2009 is the latest year for which BIS hold data at the level of detail required to answer this question (i.e. intention to go into business by age group).

Intention to start a business among non-entrepreneurially active population

	2005	2006	2007	2008	Percentage 2009
18 to 24	10.3	7.8	8.2	8.4	5.5
Total	6.5	5.6	5.0	5.2	4.4

Source:
Global Entrepreneurship Monitor UK combined database 2002-09

Defence Equipment

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department will incur in relation to the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition between 13 and 16 September 2011; and which Ministers from his Department plan to attend the event. [60762]

Mr Prisk: Costs associated with hosting official overseas delegations invited by Government to attend DSEi '11 will be met by the organisers. UKTI DSO will part fund a Capability Showcase which is expected to cost around £100,000. This will at least be in part offset by income from industry in support of the showcase and other support. No direct costs, other than staff time and related staff travel expenses, will be incurred on hosting official delegations. Programmes of UK Government Ministers are decided nearer to the date of the event and will not be published in advance of it taking place.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the number of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61704]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publish information on employment levels by responsibility level as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment survey as well as information on the overall number of leavers by Department including BIS. This can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

ONS publish information on employment levels across the civil service as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Bulletin, which can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13615

Departmental Parental Leave

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy for staff is in respect of *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* rates of pay for (i) maternity and (ii) adoption leave. [61790]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009, with the merger of Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS). Following the merger employees remain on the terms and conditions applicable to them at the time of the merger.

(i) Maternity leave

All pregnant employees are entitled to up to 52 weeks maternity leave irrespective of length of service. Employees on BERR arrangements who have completed one year's qualifying service are eligible for 26 weeks contractual maternity pay payable at their normal rate of pay. Employees on DIUS arrangements are eligible for 28 weeks contractual maternity pay payable at their normal rate of pay and are not required to serve a qualifying period. Contractual payments include an element of statutory maternity pay. Employees who do not meet the qualifying criteria are paid the statutory rates applicable to them.

(ii) Adoption leave

All employees who adopt a child are entitled to up to 52 weeks adoption leave irrespective of length of service. Employees on BERR arrangements who have completed one year's qualifying service are eligible for 26 weeks contractual adoption pay payable at their normal rate of pay. Employees on DIUS arrangements are eligible for 28 weeks contractual adoption pay payable at their normal rate of pay and are not required to serve a qualifying period. Contractual payments include an element of statutory adoption pay. Employees who do not meet the qualifying criteria are paid the statutory rates applicable to them.

Developing Countries: Cotton

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the step forward on cotton initiative for least developed countries proposed by the Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO); what representations he has made to other WTO members on this proposal; and if he will make a statement. [61564]

Mr Davey: The director general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) proposed that 'a step forward on cotton' be included in a development-focussed package of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) to be agreed at the December WTO ministerial. The details of this step forward have not yet been defined.

The removal of developed country cotton subsidies is a UK Government priority for the DDA and I and other Ministers have consistently pressed this with counterparts. We are supportive of any proposals that would move this issue forward. UK officials are working with the WTO secretariat and other WTO member states to push for the step forward on cotton to be as ambitious as possible.

Employment Schemes

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what data he will require *(a)* further education institutions and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus to provide to his Department as part of the Job Outcome Incentive Scheme pilots in the academic year 2011-12; and whether this information will be published; [61368]

(2) when his Department expects to publish details of the Job Outcome Incentive Scheme pilots for the 2011-12 academic year. [61370]

Mr Hayes: As part of the measures to simplify the further education and skills funding system we are introducing Outcome Incentive Payments. The Skills Funding Agency will trial this approach in the 2011/12 academic year through the introduction of a Job Outcome Payment.

Further information on the operation of the Job Outcome Payment pilot will be provided in Guidance Note 8 which is due to be published by the agency before Summer recess. Technical detail, including information relating to the data required will be given in a Technical Briefing Note that will be published shortly afterwards. Together with the agency, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills intend to seek the views of colleges and training organisations to evaluate the Job Outcome Payment pilot.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which colleges he expects to participate in the Job Outcome Incentive scheme pilots in the 2011-12 academic year. [61447]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* As part of the measures to simplify the further education and skills funding system we are introducing outcome incentive payments. The Skills Funding Agency will trial this approach in the 2011/12 academic year through the introduction of a job outcome payment.

Guidance Note 6[1], published by the Skills Funding Agency on 16 December 2010, stated that all colleges and training organisations with an Adult Skills Budget allocation have an identified amount of funding to be used for job outcome incentive payments. This equates to 2.5% of the 2011/12 indicative Adult Skills Budget allocation and is shown as a potential payment on the funding statements of colleges and training organisations. Further information on the operation of the job outcome payment pilot will be provided in Guidance Note 8 which is due to be published by the agency before summer recess.

[1]http://readingroom.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/sfa/skills_funding_agency_-_guidance_note_6_final_-v2_.pdf

English Language: Education

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the effects on women of changes to the provision of courses of English for speakers of other languages. [61539]

Mr Hayes: Since the publication of "Skills for Sustainable Growth", a large number of organisations and individuals, including Members, have made representations to my Department about the impact of our proposals for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). They have included correspondence from learners and their representatives and Principals of Further Education Colleges. I also hold regular meetings with Further Education stakeholders; the topics that we have discussed include ESOL

The views and supporting information offered by these groups have been collated and are being taken into consideration as part of the ESOL impact assessment, which will be published before summer recess.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the equality impact assessment of the Government's proposals for the funding of courses of English for speakers of other languages. [61541]

Mr Hayes: An assessment of how the changes announced in Skills for Sustainable Growth (November 2010) may affect English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners is currently being carried out by the Department. Business and Skills Ministers meet regularly with ministerial colleagues in other Government Departments and have discussed a range of issues, including the assessment. In addition, my officials have been in regular contact with other Departments on this subject.

EU Grants and Loans

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many successful regional growth fund bids were made with reference to matched funds from the European Regional Development Fund in the most recently announced funding round. [59520]

Mr Prisk: There were 464 bids to the regional growth fund (RGF) round 1. Of these, 66 mentioned bids for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in their application. One such bid, Manchester Eye Hospital, was successful.

Officials in the Department and in the ERDF teams have worked closely together to align, where practical, the respective funds' bidding processes. Most ERDF programmes are managing a simultaneous call for proposals to complement the timing of the RGFs second round, with the aim of encouraging applicants to maximise the available public resource. Applicants seeking to access ERDF will however need to comply with the application process and the ERDF specific project selection criteria.

Further Education: Attendance

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether further education institutions undertaking education and training as part of skills conditionality proposals will be required to report on course attendance and completion for the purposes of applying higher-level sanctions. [61437]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* It is for further education colleges to determine whether to make their provision available to mandated learners. If they chose to do so, they will be required to meet Jobcentre Plus data requirements which include providing information on levels of attendance and completion.

General Agreement on Trade in Services

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what commitments the UK has in respect of Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. [61606]

Mr Davey: The UK's commitments in Mode 4 under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services include commitments in Intra-corporate Transfers, Business Visitors and Contractual Service Suppliers.

The detail of the commitments is set out in the EU schedules of services commitments which are available on the WTO website at:

www.wto.org

Green Investment Bank: Location

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce his decision on the location of the Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement. [61588]

Mr Prisk: Following state aid approval the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be established as a Companies Act company and its board will be appointed. The Government and the GIB board, working closely with the Government Property Unit, will take a decision on the GIB's location, taking into account: (1) the ability to deliver the GIB mission (2) operational costs, and (3) access to required talent.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills *(a)* what criteria he plans to use and *(b)* whether he plans to take into account (i) the availability of sustainable transport links and (ii) environment city status when making his decision on the location of the Green Investment Bank; and if he will make a statement. [61591]

Mr Prisk: The location for the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be chosen to enable it best to deliver its mission. The criteria will be: (1) ability to deliver the GIB mission; (2) operational costs; and (3) access to required talent.

Fuller details of these criteria are set out in Section 2.7 of the "Update on the design of the Green Investment Bank" which I published on 23 May. This decision will be taken in due course.

Higher Education: Admissions

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in North West Durham constituency applied to enter university in the academic year *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how many such applicants were successful. [61408]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table and has been provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Applicants who were not accepted for entry will include: individuals who did not receive any offer; individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university; individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (eg they did not achieve certain grades); and individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions from North West Durham constituency 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11

	Applicants	*Accepted applicants*
2008/09	586	468
2009/10	620	501
2010/11	694	531

Source:
UCAS

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of first-time full-time undergraduates studying in institutions not in receipt of public funds eligible for fee loans in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [61458]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The Department cannot provide estimates of the number of students at privately funded institutions eligible for fee loans as these data are not centrally collected.

Investment: Sudan

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on private investment in Sudan. [61378]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no recent discussions, or other related engagement, on the matter of UK private investment in Sudan.

National Enterprise Academy: Private Sector

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what private sector financial support the National Enterprise Academy has received since 2008; and if he will make a statement. [59797]

Mr Hayes: Since 2008, the National Enterprise Academy (NEA) has received £218,310 cash investment from the private sector and the NEA estimates it has attracted £3 million in in-kind support from the private sector.

Over the past two years, the NEA has developed a new brand of practical enterprise and entrepreneurship training for young adults, including employer mentor support for learners, as an integral part of their course.

North Sea Oil

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W, on North Sea oil, what discussions Ministers in his Department held, on what dates and with which oil and gas companies prior to the Budget Statement of 23 March 2011. [60725]

Mr Prisk: Nothing has changed since my answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 956W.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60101]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 895W.

Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on students: finance, if he will publish the contract for services between his Department and Rainey Kelly Campbell Roafle. [58431]

Mr Willetts: As the services were procured through the Central Office of Information, and in line with the Government's commitment to ensure transparency, the contract for services between them and Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe was published on the Businesslink contract finder website. A copy of the contract will be supplied to the right hon. Member and placed in the Library.

The relevant Buinesslink website page upon which the contract details can be obtained can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on students: finance, how many staff from Rainey Kelly Campbell Roafle are working on his Department's campaign. [58432]

Mr Willetts: The published contract documentation referred to in my previous answer, details 11 job titles, along with the number of hours allocated under each job title, for work on the campaign.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 480-1W, on students: finance, what expenditure his Department will incur in connection with the appointment of Rainey Kelly Campbell Roafle. [58433]

Mr Willetts: Rainey Kelly Campbell Roalfe were appointed to support the campaign at an expected cost of £150,000, which it is expected will be incurred.

In addition the Department has incurred central office of information management fees of £5,132 in connection with the appointment of the agency.

Self-employed

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the proportion of adults who considered going into business or becoming self-employed in each year since 2005; and if he will estimate the proportion of such people who believed they had sufficient knowledge and understanding to do so in each such year. [61094]

Mr Prisk: The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor provides a measure of the proportion of UK adults who were not already engaged in enterprise, who intended to start-up in business within the next three years. Table 1 shows that in 2010, 6.7% of the adult population in the UK said they intended to start-up in business within the next three years.

BIS does not have data on the proportion of such people who believed that they had sufficient knowledge and understanding to start-up in business. However, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor does provide a measure of the proportion of UK adults who were not already engaged in enterprise, who agreed they had the skills and knowledge to start a business.

The table shows that in 2010, 46.1% of the non-entrepreneurially active adult population in the UK said they believed they had the skills and knowledge to start a business.

Table 1: Entrepreneurial intentions and confidence in start up skills among UK adults

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Percentage 2010
Intend to start-up in next three years[1]	8.7	7.8	7.4	6.8	6.1	6.7
I have the knowledge and skills to start a business[2]	46.4	45.1	44.0	44.4	44.4	46.1

[1] Some of those adults indicating they intend to start up could also already be running a business.
[2] Among those not already engaged in enterprise activity.
Source:
Global Entrepreneurship Monitor UK 2010 report

Short Time Working

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to bring forward legislative proposals to reform short time working. [61387]

Mr Davey: The Government have no current plans to reform the law on short time working.

Small Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number and proportion of small businesses that were involved in enterprise awareness-raising activities in each year since 2005. [61098]

Mr Prisk: I do not have a record of small business involvement in enterprise awareness raising activities in each year since 2005. Such engagement is by its very nature undertaken at the local level and statistics are not collected centrally.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the proportion of small businesses that *(a)* sought and *(b)* took-up external business advice funded by his Department during their start-up in each year since 2005. [61108]

Mr Prisk: The Department of Business Innovation and Skills funds support for business start-ups which is currently accessed via the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) through the Business Link regional advisory service. The RDAs have reported *(a)* the following levels of engagement with business start-ups (i.e. those businesses trading for less than 12 months) since 2005.

Financial year	*Number of start-up businesses*
2005/06	39,198
2006/07	46,093
2007/08	52,178
2008/09	54,806
2009/10	58,662
2010/11	46,570

The regional Business Link providers do not record information on the level of take-up of advice provided.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of those studying for level 3 or above qualifications would be required to pay fees for their courses under the proposals contained in his Department's document, Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth. [61366]

Mr Hayes: In November 2010 the coalition Government published "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" which set out the planned changes to the entitlements to full funding further education and skills for adults in England. Learners aged 19 up to 24 will be entitled to full fee remission for their first qualification at Level 3. Outside of this entitlement, there is an expectation that learners undertaking Level 3 qualifications will share the costs with the Government; with co-funding in the 2011/12 and 2012/13 academic years, and the introduction of Government-backed loans from 2013/14.

The Statistical First Release[1] provides the latest data on the proportion of starts and completions for learners at Level 3. Based on historical data we estimate that 3,000 learner places at Level 3 could become co-funded rather than fully-funded in 2011/12. However, as the further education funding system is demand-led it is not possible to predict the number or proportion of adults that will be required to pay a fee for a first Level 3 qualification beyond 2011.

[1]http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml

Students: Finance

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 478W, on students: finance, on what socio-demographic groups the public information campaign has been targeted. [58434]

Mr Willetts: In line with the campaign objective of communicating accurate information about the new student finance arrangements to potential students and their parents/carers, the campaign has been aimed at all young people aged 15 to 19, but particularly those who are closest to making a decision to go onto higher education, along with their parents and carers.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all young people who have the potential should be given the opportunity to attend university. The Department will therefore be undertaking additional activity to ensure that accurate information reaches those from lower income households.

Trade

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the UK's Mode 4 commitments are under international trade agreements which are in force. [61826]

Mr Davey: The UK has commitments in Mode 4 under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) General Agreement on Trade in Services. The detail of the commitments is set out in the EU schedules of services commitments which are available on the WTO web-site at:

www.wto.org

The UK also has commitments, some of which go further than WTO commitments, in agreements negotiated at the EU level, including with Chile, CARIFORUM and Korea. The detail of these commitments is set out in the agreements which are available on the Commission website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/

Trading Standards: Legal Profession

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* trading standards officers have to investigate the activities of partners and directors of law firms which enter liquidation and subsequently reopen under a different name in the same premises and with the same staff. [60999]

Mr Davey. *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Secretary of State has the power to investigate any company or limited liability partnership where there appears good reason, usually the suspicion that it is trading fraudulently or against the public interest. However, there is nothing in law to prevent a director of a company in liquidation from forming a new company, from acting as a partner or as a sole trader to carry on a business similar to, or even identical to, that of the former company providing, in respect of any limited company, he has not been disqualified from acting in the management of a limited company and is not personally bankrupt.

(b) Trading Standards have powers to investigate breaches under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 which bans all persons acting in trade or business from engaging in unfair commercial (mainly marketing and selling) practices against consumers. The regulations apply across all business sectors and set out a framework for how businesses must deal with consumers so that consumers can make free and informed choices in relation to goods and services offered for sale. Enforcement of the regulations is through undertakings from infringers, enforcement orders or by prosecution with offences carrying a fine of up to £5,000 or imprisonment or both.

UK Trade and Industry's Music Export Group

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the names and positions are of members of the UK Trade and Industry's Music Export Group. [61004]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The following list provides the names and positions (supplied in brackets) of UK Trade and Investment's Music Export Group members:

Doug D'Arcy, Chairman (Owner, Songlines Music)

Judith Govey (International Manager, AIM)

Peter Filleul (Executive Director, APRS)

Liam Donnelly (Head of International, Americas and Asia Pacific, PRS for Music)

Joel Mills (Music Adviser, British Council)

Atholl Swainston-Harrison (CEO, International Artists Management Agency)

Adam Webb (Press and Communications Executive, UK Music)

Leah Zakss (Music Adviser, British Council)

Laura Whitticase (Applications Co-ordinator, PRS for Music Foundation)

Crispin Parry (CEO, British Underground)

Jon Webster (Chief Executive, MMF)

Dick Miller (Director, Rightsman Independent International Consultancy)

Julian Wall (Director of International Events and Independent Member Services, BPI Ltd)

Joe Paice (Information Manager, Jazz Services)

Martin Elbourne (Director/Founder, The Great Escape and Booker for Glastonbury)

Penny King (Senior Officer—Music, Arts Council England)

Sumit Bothra (MD, Embargo Management)

Nici Butchart (Head of International Business Development, PRS for Music)

Horace Trubridge (Assistant General Secretary, Musicians Union)

Dominic McGonigal (Director of Government Relations, PPL)

Jackie Davidson (Director, Jackie Davidson Management)

Kate Brockhurst (MD, KdotONLINE)

Cathy Graham (Head of Music, British, Council)

Claire Whitaker (Director, Serious)

Colin Holdsworth (Director, CPH Exhibitions attending on behalf of Music Industries Association)

Kevin McManus (Director, Liverpool Vision)

Paul Redding (MD, Beggars)

Phil Catchpole (Music Adviser, British Council)

Steve Zapp (Agent, ITB)

Vanessa Reed (Director, RS for Music Foundation)

Peter Jenner (Secretary General, International Music Managers Forum and Artist Manager)

Representatives from UK Trade and Investment and Department of Culture, Media and Sport also attend.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions UK Trade and Industry's Music Exports Group has met in the last 12 months. [61005]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* UK Trade and Investment's Music Export Group has met three times in the last 12 months on the following dates: 16 June 2010, 25 October 2010 and 8 April 2011.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills under what budget headings the funding allocated to UK Trade and Investment to promote music exports has been spent. [61052]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Funding allocated to UK Trade and Investment to promote music exports has been included in spend under the programme codes: Sector Events—Abroad, Sector Events—UK, Inward Missions, Trade Marketing Events, Trade Marketing Publications, Trade Marketing Publicity, Tradeshow Access Programme and Solo Support Scheme.

VAT

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the rate of value added tax registration was in the *(a)* 20 per cent. most and *(b)* 20 per cent. least deprived wards in England in each year since 2005. [61096]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not available on the rate of value added tax registrations at ward level and could be estimated only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Chief Coroner

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last held a joint meeting with the Royal British Legion, CRY, INQUEST and other charities to discuss the Office of the Chief Coroner. [61359]

Mr Djanogly: I met with a number of civil society organisations as a group on 25 October 2010 including the Royal British Legion, CRY and INQUEST to discuss the Government's plans for coroner reform. I have subsequently met with all three organisations separately to discuss our proposals for the coroner system. The Secretary of State also met with the Royal British Legion on 12 May 2011.

Crime: Victims

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the creation of minimum standards of treatment under the proposed EU Directive on victims of crime. [61381]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The United Kingdom is already seen by the European Commission as an example of best practice in this area. My officials have been working with the Commission to provide evidence and examples of the support we provide to victims.

The Government approaches proposed EU justice legislation on a case by case basis with a view to maximising the United Kingdom's security, protecting our civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice systems.

The United Kingdom has three months to decide whether or not to opt in to the directive, in accordance with protocol 21 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to maintain provision of services to victims of crime during the restructuring of victim support. [61383]

Mr Blunt: Despite significant financial pressure the Government have provided £49.5 million to the victims' voluntary sector in 2011-12. Of this, £38 million is going to Victim Support who have been guaranteed the same amount again for each of the next two financial years.

I have asked Victim Support to focus their work on victims with the greatest need. I and my officials are in regular contact with them as they implement their planned changes.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Prisons and Probation will meet the All Party Parliamentary Group on Retail and Business Crime to discuss support for victims of crime in non-domestic cases. [61384]

Mr Blunt: I would be happy to meet the All Party Group should I be invited, but the Government's work to combat retail crime is led by the Home Office and the All Party Group may prefer to invite my noble Friend Baroness Browning who is the Home Office Minister responsible for this area of policy. I understand that she would be pleased to accept such an invitation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* stationery, *(b)* ministerial hospitality, *(c)* taxis, *(d)* pot plants and cut flowers, *(e)* lost mobile phones, *(f)* IT, *(g)* staff training and *(h)* staff away days since May 2010. [60241]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I shall provide the hon. Member with a reply as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Jonathan Djanogly to Sadiq Khan:

Regarding expenditure since May 2010 by the Department, I am able to inform the hon. Member of the following:

(a) Stationery; (f) IT; and (g) Staff training

The Department is not able to extract information from these expenditure categories on the period May 2010 to May 2011 from its accounting system without incurring disproportionate cost. Information for the whole financial year 2010-11 will become available once the process of collating and auditing the Departmental Annual Resource Accounts is completed.

(b) Ministerial hospitality

The Department incurred the following costs from ministerial hospitality from May to March 2010-11: £21,941.54; in the period April to May 2011-12: Nil. The costs of the events are shown in the following table:

Date	*Event*	*£*
17 May 2010	Reception with MOJ Director Generals	20.80
25 May 2010	Lord Chancellor's reception (State Opening of Parliament)	1,208.56
9 June 2010	Reception and dinner for British-Israeli legal exchange	5,102.59
17 June 2010	Reception for key figures in the Legal and Criminal Justice system	854.75
5 July 2010	Lunch with the Russian Justice Minister	117.75
14 July 2010	Interview and lunch with newspaper journalist	12.80
27 July 2010	Justice Committee drinks	26.55
7 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (small providers)	38.20
12 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (large providers)	59.00
13 July 2010	Legal Aid stakeholder meeting (representative bodies)	47.00
1 October 2010	Cost of Opening of Legal Year Breakfast	13,176.00
18 October 2010	Lord Mayor Elect Ceremony	340.00
1 November 2010	Dinner with German Justice Minister	937.54
Total		21,941.54

(c) Taxis

The Department's accounting records do not record expenditure in sufficient detail to allow us to extract taxis from the overall total of "other travel costs" which includes rail, buses, private vehicle hire, taxis and private mileage.

(d) Pot plants and cut flowers

The MoJ does not have a budget for purchasing flowers for its buildings. Some buildings may have plants in reception areas to create a welcoming atmosphere for staff and visitors. However, it would incur disproportionate costs to go to all the buildings the MoJ and its executive agencies occupy (over 800 locations across the UK—mainly courts, tribunals, prisons and local offices) to find out if any trees or plants have been bought since May 2010.

(e) Lost mobile phones

The Department does not maintain a central record of lost mobile phones. This information may be held locally and can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

(h) Staff away days

Away days are held mainly for team building, team training or business development activities. Such events are held off-site where suitable on-site accommodation is unavailable and where the conduct of the event is facilitated by holding it away from day-to-day business operations.

The Ministry's accounting systems do not separately quantify expenditure on away days. Costs are subsumed within other categories of expenditure depending on their nature and purpose, for example conferences/events or training. It would incur disproportionate costs to scrutinise all the individual transactions which might potentially include away day costs across the Ministry and its executive agencies.

All spending on away days is completed in line with the Finance Policy Manual, which is in line with HM Treasury Guidance on Managing Public Money, and states the following for away days and team building events:

"These occasional events are organised to develop working relationships and achieve Departmental objectives. They are acceptable as long as the event can be justified as good value for money and can demonstrate development achievements. Costs should be reasonable and comparable to the status of the event".

Wherever possible, taking into account room availability, size and flexibility, managers are expected to use Ministry or other public sector buildings for team events and away days rather than using external venues.

Legal Aid: Foreign Nationals

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice under what circumstances *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign nationals are entitled to claim legal aid. [61390]

Mr Djanogly: We have assumed that the question is referring to legal aid.

Community Legal Service funding is available to anyone who qualifies, provided that the applicant is using the courts of England and Wales and the case is within the scope of the scheme. Each application for funding is treated on an individual basis and is subject to the statutory tests of the means of the applicant and the merits of their case.

When the Legal Services Commission considers applications for funding, the applicant's nationality, residency or citizenship does not play any part in the decision-making process. The rules for scope and qualification are in legislation or other documents laid before Parliament.

Scotland and Northern Ireland operate their own separate schemes.

Legal Aid: Greater London

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many applications for legal aid are waiting to be determined in the centralised legal aid office at Havering magistrates court; [61613]

(2) what the target time is for determination of legal aid applications in the Centralised Legal Aid Unit at Havering magistrates court; and what the average time taken to determine an application in that court was in the latest period for which figures are available; [61614]

(3) how many defendants in each *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in the Greater London area appeared unrepresented in circumstances attributable to the time taken by the Centralised Legal Aid Unit at Havering magistrates court to grant legal aid in the latest period for which figures are available; [61653]

(4) what steps are being taken to reduce the time taken to determine applications by the Centralised Legal Aid Unit at Havering magistrates court; and by what date he expects all outstanding applications to have been determined; [61654]

(5) how many hearings in each *(a)* magistrates court and *(b)* Crown court in the Greater London area have been adjourned in circumstances attributable to the non-determination of a legal aid award by the Centralised Legal Aid Unit at Havering magistrates court. [61656]

Mr Djanogly: As at close of business on 17 June 2011 the total number of applications waiting to be determined at the centralised legal aid unit at Havering magistrates court stood at 4095.

The target times for determination of legal aid applications in the centralised legal aid unit at Havering magistrates court are, in accordance with the national HMCTS targets agreed with the Legal Services Commission, to process 90% of all completed applications within two days of receipt, 95% within three days and 100% within six days. HMCTS does not collect performance data on the average time taken to determine an application. The latest performance data against the 90% target (within two days) show performance at Havering as 96.6% for March 2011, 69.9% for April 2011 and 27.4% for May 2011. Performance against the 95% target (within three days) is 97.2% for March 2011, 80.8% for April 2011 and 29.9% for May 2011. Performance against the 100% target (within six days) is 99% in March 2011, 95.1% in April 2011 and 49.2% in May 2011.

HMCTS does not centrally collect data on the number of defendants that appear unrepresented in the magistrates court. Nationally, figures are published for the total number of unrepresented defendants in the Crown court, however, these figures do not provide reasons why defendants are unrepresented. Accordingly, there are no data held by HMCTS centrally to link the number of defendants who have appeared unrepresented in circumstances attributable to the time taken by the centralised legal aid unit at Havering magistrates court to grant legal aid.

A detailed and rigorous recovery plan has been put in place by the London HMCTS Regional Management Board. The plan includes transferring additional trained staff into Havering from other parts of the London region. Havering is also receiving some assistance from

other HMCTS regions outside of London. Saturday working and overtime has also been approved at Havering to further accelerate processing.

It is expected that the backlogs will be cleared by the end of July at the latest and that Havering, along with all other London courts, will return to processing a minimum of 90% of all applications within the two day target by that date. During the period of recovery, performance is being closely monitored by local managers and regular reports will be produced for the London senior management team to ensure that the necessary progress is being made.

Additional resources are also being transferred on a permanent basis into the centralised legal aid unit at Havering magistrates court specifically to deal with legal aid applications to ensure that London is able to sustain performance in the longer term.

HMCTS does not collect data on the number of hearings in the magistrates court or the Crown court in Greater London that have been adjourned in circumstances attributable to the non-determination of a legal aid award. Accordingly there are no data as to the number of hearings in the magistrates court or the Crown court in Greater London that have been adjourned in circumstances attributable to the non-determination of a legal aid award by the centralised legal aid unit at Havering magistrates court.

Mortgages: Fees and Charges

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect of alternative business structures on the mortgage conveyancing process. [61388]

Mr Djanogly: I have not made an assessment of the effect of alternative business structures (ABS) on conveyancing, but the Legal Services Board (LSB) has been considering the impact of ABS more widely on the legal services sector. I am aware that the LSB's published business plan 2011-12 refers to the consideration of thematic reviews, of which conveyancing is one.

The LSB considers that the conveyancing process will not be affected by the changes to regulation and the liberalisation of the legal services market, but would hope that increased competition will stimulate innovation and improve value for money for consumers.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider the merits of requesting the Financial Services Authority to report on the effect of alternative business structures on the mortgage conveyancing process. [61389]

Mr Djanogly: Alternative Business Structures (ABS) have not yet been introduced. Work is under way for the introduction of ABS, but this can only happen when the necessary regulatory arrangements are in place.

The Legal Services Board (LSB) has been working to develop the arrangements for monitoring and review of the impact of the introduction of ABS. I would hope that the LSB will engage with financial sector stakeholders including the Financial Services Authority and the conveyancing industry as part of its monitoring work.

Offences against Children

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals have been convicted of offences relating to child sexual exploitation including grooming in each crown prosecution service area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [61434]

Mr Blunt: Persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to child sexual exploitation, by police force area in England and Wales in the last ten years, can be viewed in the table.

Data are collected by police force area, which relate closely to crown prosecution service area.

Persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to child sexual exploitation, by police force area, England and Wales, 2000[1]-10[2,3,4,5]

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[6]*	*2009*	*2010*
Avon and Somerset	22	10	13	32	33	41	47	73	76	91	96
Bedfordshire	12	9	4	10	11	20	17	30	22	22	13
Cambridgeshire	4	6	5	9	16	42	50	35	49	69	65
Cheshire	11	9	6	21	21	41	49	48	66	50	48
City of London	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Cleveland	4	8	9	14	17	30	41	39	46	34	51
Cumbria	2	2	4	9	22	31	30	38	24	34	43
Derbyshire	9	8	12	15	34	48	67	82	95	100	82
Devon and Cornwall	13	23	21	25	33	73	66	88	90	77	95
Dorset	4	8	8	17	7	19	33	39	29	34	35
Durham	2	7	11	12	24	37	38	34	61	50	57
Essex	15	7	10	12	12	45	59	50	62	45	68
Gloucestershire	2	5	5	9	4	25	49	35	31	23	40
Greater Manchester	41	46	37	75	54	148	160	177	193	167	246
Hampshire	19	32	28	31	61	89	105	105	123	141	135
Hertfordshire	12	11	14	16	19	35	51	43	33	27	58
Humberside	10	12	21	17	37	46	50	61	93	77	127
Kent	21	20	17	26	25	50	65	88	109	97	110
Lancashire	14	28	25	27	48	90	105	127	125	171	149

Persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to child sexual exploitation, by police force area, England and Wales, 2000[1]-10[2,3,4,5]

Police force area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[6]*	*2009*	*2010*
Leicestershire	11	8	13	17	27	36	43	64	39	56	53
Lincolnshire	10	3	12	10	18	27	45	39	41	41	47
Merseyside	16	19	16	22	33	36	50	43	49	52	61
Metropolitan Police	45	59	56	121	99	144	197	242	265	311	322
Norfolk	7	6	5	10	18	36	56	57	55	51	55
North Yorkshire	9	9	10	10	30	24	38	57	46	55	43
Northamptonshire	3	8	3	11	14	18	25	45	31	40	65
Northumbria	27	31	17	41	32	62	95	82	86	88	118
Nottinghamshire	24	26	22	20	36	67	66	62	47	67	45
South Yorkshire	21	20	20	35	35	80	80	74	76	64	75
Staffordshire	3	15	13	19	32	48	59	55	60	65	78
Suffolk	5	4	8	15	15	45	43	30	37	38	54
Surrey	5	2	4	7	14	11	22	32	30	24	45
Sussex	11	11	13	23	19	41	49	62	70	74	92
Thames Valley	18	11	21	20	28	55	84	80	96	83	119
Warwickshire	1	3	5	4	9	17	19	25	31	33	41
West Mercia	15	11	19	27	36	65	85	80	41	81	94
West Midlands	40	42	39	72	96	125	170	154	158	145	153
West Yorkshire	43	31	26	42	71	103	114	118	140	128	114
Wiltshire	8	8	6	13	18	24	36	22	28	42	34
Dyfed-Powys	8	6	4	9	12	25	10	14	17	20	30
Gwent	12	16	19	17	28	36	35	32	38	28	42
North Wales	7	7	7	9	14	24	48	27	37	25	44
South Wales	21	29	18	33	38	49	68	35	66	72	73
Total	587	637	626	984	1,250	2,110	2,619	2,723	2,911	2,994	3,415

[1] Prior to 2004 the following statutes were used under the Sexual Offences Act 1956: sections 5, 6, 12, 25, 26, 28. And Section 1 of the Indecency with Children Act 1960.

[2] Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force in May 2004. Includes all offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 where the age of the victim can be determined from the Act (and where it is under 16) under which the offender was sentenced. This includes: sections 1, 5-12, 14-15 and sections 47-50.

[3] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] In some instances after the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, defendants may have also been convicted under the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Offences against Children: Reoffenders

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who had previously been convicted for unlawful sex with a minor have reoffended in the last 12 months. [61454]

Mr Blunt: For adult offenders who were convicted of unlawful sex with a minor, the 12 month re-conviction rate is 10.8%. This is based on offences committed within one year of an offender being discharged from custody or commencing a court order in the first quarter of 2009.

For details regarding the measurement of re-conviction please see:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sexual offences against a minor include all offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 where the age of the victim can be determined from the Act (and where it is under 16) under which the offender was sentenced. This includes offences under sections 1, 5-10 and 47 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Parole: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the adequacy of the number of judges available to serve on parole board panels; and if he will make a statement. [61646]

Mr Djanogly: The Parole Board has indicated that it does currently have enough judges to support all the panels it can list. Over the last 12 to 18 months we at the Ministry of Justice, have appointed 57 additional judicial members and 48 new independent and specialist members. This has enabled the Parole Board to schedule and hear almost 40% more lifer and Indeterminate Public Protection Sentences (IPP) oral hearings panels than previously held.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what date his Department commenced negotiations on a prisoner transfer agreement with the government of *(a)* Jamaica and *(b)* Nigeria; and by what date he expects each to be completed. [61364]

Mr Blunt: Discussions with Jamaica began in 2006 and resulted in the signature of a prisoner transfer agreement in June 2007. The prisoner transfer agreement has yet to be ratified as the Jamaican Government first needs to introduce enabling legislation. Discussions on how to facilitate the legislation and the implementation of the agreement are ongoing.

Discussions with Nigeria on a compulsory prisoner transfer agreement began in 2006. In 2009 the Nigerian Government ratified the Commonwealth Scheme for the Transfer of Convicted Offenders. The Commonwealth Scheme provides for transfer of prisoners on a voluntary basis. The Nigerian Government is currently amending its law to enable it to conclude compulsory transfer agreements.

The implementation of domestic legislation is a matter for the respective jurisdictions concerned and the Government cannot therefore say when these processes will be completed.

Reoffenders: Convictions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions of repeat offenders there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* South Lakeland District in each of the last 10 years. [61635]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of offenders sentenced for indictable offences by area and criminal history, 2001-10. These figures relate to separate sentencing occasions and therefore an offender may be included on more than one occasion, either within an area, across areas, or across time. These figures are a further breakdown of table Q7.5 in 'Criminal Justice Statistics Quarterly Update to December 2010' which was published on 26 May 2011.

Sentencing occasions have been allocated to a location on the basis of the police force that processed the offence, or in the case of South Lakeland the offender's address at the time of conviction. Repeat offenders are those with a previous conviction or caution anywhere in England or Wales.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of offenders[1] sentenced for indictable offences by area and criminal history, 2001-10

										Number of offenders[1]	
		2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
England[2]	Total convictions	296,998	311,212	313,915	299,922	287,991	284,746	295,734	306,485	302,867	309,355
	Repeat offender[3]	261,217	276,070	279,428	265,098	254,293	252,307	263,512	274,317	271,228	276,596
	Repeat offender (%)	88	89	89	88	88	89	89	90	90	89
North West[2]	Total convictions	52,194	55,104	54,553	52,574	49,796	50,429	53,388	54,046	52,024	54,159
	Repeat offender3	47,120	50,063	49,484	47,291	44,690	45,482	48,115	49,338	47,352	49,385
	Repeat offender (%)	90	91	91	90	90	90	90	91	91	91
Cumbria[2]	Total convictions	3,060	3,068	3,274	3,463	3,344	3,227	3,272	3,525	3,221	3,195
	Repeat offender3	2,708	2,761	2,968	3,119	2,961	2,892	2,920	3,207	2,944	2,901
	Repeat offender (%)	88	90	91	90	89	90	89	91	91	91
South Lakeland[4]	Total convictions	319	294	321	313	340	313	369	377	329	309
	Repeat offender3	277	260	273	269	291	279	310	338	293	270
	Repeat offender (%)	87	88	85	86	86	89	84	90	89	87

[1] These figures relate to separate sentencing occasions and therefore an offender may be included on more than one occasion, either within an area or across time.
[2] Area information based on processing police force.
[3] An offender who at the time of their sentence had at least one previous conviction or caution which was committed anywhere in England and Wales.
[4] Area information based on offender's address.

Violent Crimes: Convictions

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for violent offences there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-west, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* South Lakeland district in each of the last 10 years. [61636]

Mr Blunt: The total number of defendants found guilty at all courts for violent offences in England, North West and Cumbria, 2000 to 2010 can be viewed in the following table.

Information on convictions is not collated below police force area centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Convictions for violent offences[1] at all courts by region, 2000-10[2,3]

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009[4]	2010
Cumbria	Violence against the person	425	457	460	469	458	543	492	458	484	490	484
	Sexual offences	26	38	46	46	45	55	44	49	44	52	61
	Robbery	33	19	29	22	23	17	8	16	18	28	27
North West	Violence against the person	6,105	6,220	6,341	6,472	6,715	6,949	7,569	7,663	7,006	7,192	7,420
	Sexual offences	578	681	669	689	716	710	746	798	789	757	837
	Robbery	940	1,005	1,189	1,187	1,136	1,132	1,310	1,343	1,207	1,149	1,067
England	Violence against the person	32,378	32,647	34,921	35,279	36,327	38,096	39,047	39,109	39,058	40,782	41,777
	Sexual offences	3,632	3,774	4,054	4,081	4,485	4,483	4,637	4,801	4,838	4,846	5,472
	Robbery	5,687	6,609	7,497	7,112	7,280	6,908	7,905	8,599	8,227	8,405	8,245

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[4] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Youth Justice Board: Office of the Chief Coroner

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Tooting of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 474W, on the Youth Justice Board: Office of the Chief Coroner, how much he expects to save from the transition of some of the functions of the Youth Justice Board into his Department in each year to 2014-15; and which measures leading to savings require the abolition of the Board as a non-departmental public body. [61700]

Mr Blunt: It is estimated that the Youth Justice Board will save £6 million operating costs by 2014-15. We estimate these savings to be £1 million in 2011-12, £2 million in 2012-13 and £4 million in 2013-14.

There will be some small direct savings attributable to the abolition although the transition process itself will incur some costs which will reduce any planned savings in the initial year of transition. These savings are in respect of the costs of board members who will no longer be required post abolition. We estimate these costs to be approximately £250,000 per annum.

The key benefit from the decision to abolish the Youth Justice Board will be direct ministerial accountability for youth justice which the Government believes will help to secure better outcomes for young people.

Youth Justice Board: Public Finance

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the likely cost to the public purse of abolishing the Youth Justice Board. [61698]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice and the Youth Justice Board are working together to identify the extent of the costs involved in the transition process. We will publish a full Impact Assessment over the summer, alongside the MOJ's consultation on the Public Bodies Bill.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60708]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change keeps the impact of employment law and on the Department's responsibilities under review at all times.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), has many meetings with outside organisations and colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), on a range of topics.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61176]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does not own any properties. The only space occupied by the Department outside Greater London is in Aberdeen. The address of these offices is:

Atholl House
86-88 Guild Street
Aberdeen
AB116AR

DECC occupies two floors of Atholl House under a MOTO (Memorandum of Terms of Occupation) agreement with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) who holds the lease for the whole building. MOTO agreements do not have a lease term attached to them. The space rented is fully utilised. Under the agreement with BIS, DECC is recharged a single amount which includes, but is not limited to, rent net of sub-rental income, rates, service charges, depreciation of building improvements and BIS service charges for staff. For 2010-11 the Department paid BIS £717,432. BIS maintains responsibility for the overall management of the building, including lease and sub-lease arrangements.

Energy: Industry

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met representatives from UK energy intensive industries; and how many meetings he has held with such representatives since May 2010. [61217]

Charles Hendry: Ministers and officials at DECC and across Government are in regular contact with representatives from UK energy intensive industries on a range of issues. The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne), last met representatives from UK energy intensive industries at the Green Economy Council meeting on 7 June 2011, which he co-chairs. Both Ineos Chlor and Tata Steel are represented on this group. Dates and details of all of the meetings the DECC ministerial team have with external organisations are available through the website via the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accesstoinform/registers/ministermtgs/ministermtgs.aspx

Energy: Prices

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on the living standards of consumers living in fuel poverty of recent trends in energy costs; what steps he is taking to limit energy price rises; and if he will make a statement. [61139]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken. However, an assessment of the likely impact of all changes for England will be made on 14 July 2011 when DECC will publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Effective competition is key to ensuring consumers get the best deal. Government are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its Retail Market Review.

In addition the new Warm Home Discount scheme will require energy companies by law to give a discount on energy bills to more of their most low income and vulnerable customers. The new mandatory scheme will replace the previous voluntary agreement with energy suppliers to provide better focused help to tackle fuel poverty. Over the four years to 2015, the Warm Home Discount scheme will be worth up to £1.1 billion and will help around 2 million households per year.

Fuel Poverty: Pensioners

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioners in Sunderland were living in fuel poverty in each of the last five years. [61992]

Gregory Barker: Sub-regional fuel poverty data is available only at an "all household" level and no splits of demographics are available. Sub-regional data has only been produced for 2006 and 2008 out of the last five years; in 2006 there were estimated to be 18,300 households in fuel poverty in Sunderland, and 24,400 in 2008.

The following table shows the national data for pensioners for the last five years.

Households in England in fuel poverty containing at least one person over 60

	Number (rounded thousand)
2004	600
2005	800
2006	1,200
2007	1,400
2008	1,600
2009	[1]—

[1] Not yet available.

National data for 2009 is scheduled to be released on 14 July.

Green Deal Scheme

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made an assessment of the likely carbon reductions arising from implementation of the Green Deal scheme. [60214]

Gregory Barker: An assessment of the likely reduction in UK carbon emissions resulting from the implementation of the Green Deal and energy company obligation (ECO) policies was included in the impact assessment that was published alongside the Energy Bill in December 2010. The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1002-energy-bill-2011-ia-green-deal.pdf

The analysis indicates that implementation of the Green Deal and ECO policies would result in a total non-traded sector carbon saving of between 3.3 and 4.9 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020. Further analysis of the impact of the Green Deal and ECO policies on UK carbon emissions will be published in autumn 2011.

Solar Power: Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from community groups on his decision to implement new solar photovaltaic feed-in tariffs for installations with a generating capacity over 50 kilowatts. [61244]

Gregory Barker: Many community groups responded to the fast track consultation on the feed in tariff, and their views were considered by Ministers when making their decision. Officials are also in regular contact with a range of community groups.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 383W, on solar power: feed-in tariffs, what representations he has received on his Department's target rate of a five per cent. return on solar photovoltaic installations. [61245]

Gregory Barker: As part of the fast track consultation we received a range of views on level of internal rate of return required for PV installations. Some considered 5% IRR to be too low to be viable but many others consider this level to be appropriate.

Solar Power: Industry

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he had with representatives of the solar industry between 7 February 2011 and 22 March 2011; and if he will publish the minutes of each such meeting. [61241]

Gregory Barker: Ministers from DECC have met with a number of different groups representing the solar industry during the fast track consultation, however there were no meeting between those specific dates. Officials are also in regular contact with industry representatives.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with representatives of the solar photovoltaic industry since *(a)* the publication of the proposed tariff changes in March 2011 and *(b)* his confirmation on 9 June 2011 of the tariff changes to take effect from 1 August 2011. [61242]

Gregory Barker: Ministers from DECC have met with a number of different groups representing the solar industry during the fast track consultation. Officials are also in regular contact with industry representatives.

Technical Advisory Panel

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 116-7W, on the technical advisory panel, what reasons were given by the nominee to TAP by non-governmental organisations for not taking up the appointment. [60544]

Charles Hendry: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, Dr Mike Weightman, set up the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to assist him with technical advice on the emergent findings for his interim report on the lessons to be learnt for the UK from the incident at the Fukushima nuclear plant. The individual nominated to represent non-governmental organisations on the TAP felt unable to participate because the position was not remunerated in the way he wished.

Wind Power

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the effect of grid connection costs on expansion in the small wind systems sector. [60924]

Charles Hendry: The Government do not hold precise information on the grid connection costs for micro wind turbines. Costs for connecting to the distribution network are a matter for Ofgem and the Distribution Network Operators. Ofgem is currently seeking stakeholder views on connecting to the distribution network, including costs, with the aim of improving the connections experience for distributed generation.

In addition, a recent study conducted by Arup for DECC on generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity technologies concluded that grid connection for onshore wind developments accounted for approximately 5% of capital costs. The study examined costs for technologies generating up to 5MW. Due to limited data, Arup applied a uniform cost of 5% across all generation levels. Further information on the Arup study, which was undertaken to inform the 2013-17 Renewables Obligation banding review, is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pnll_47/pnll_47.aspx

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely cost per MWh of electricity generation from generating plants on standby to cover for the intermittency of generation from wind power. [61147]

Charles Hendry: Additional electricity generation required as a result of low wind output or any other reason could be provided by a number of technologies. Our estimates are that the likely short run marginal cost[1] per MWh of standby generation ranges from £60 to £80 for gas and coal generation without CCS. Non-generation approaches can also be used to balance supply and demand, such as demand response, interconnection and storage. As we

decarbonise the electricity system further, these non-generation approaches are expected to play proportionately more of a role as they can often facilitate integration of intermittent generation more effectively than back-up generation.

[1]The short run marginal cost is the cost of an existing plant generating electricity (therefore includes variable operating costs, fuel costs, carbon costs but not construction costs or fixed operating costs).

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what forms of power generation are available to provide standby back-up in the event of the unavailability of energy generated through wind power. [61303]

Charles Hendry: Back-up electricity generation, which may be required as a result of low wind output, as well as for several other reasons, is provided by other generation, which includes coal, gas and hydro. Non-generation approaches (demand response, interconnection and storage) also provide back-up. As we decarbonise the electricity system further, these non-generation approaches are expected to play proportionately more of a role as they can often facilitate integration of intermittent generation more effectively than back-up generation.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 27 June 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Training

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Attorney-General what training crown prosecutors receive in respect of processing recorded incidents of stalking and harassment. [61772]

The Solicitor-General: Crown prosecutors do not receive specific training on the prosecution of stalking and harassment cases.

However, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to tackling violence against women and girls, which includes stalking as a key priority. In September 2010 the CPS produced legal guidance for prosecutors on stalking and harassment and in December 2010, as a first step to addressing the issue of stalking, the CPS, Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) held the first joint National Stalking Conference to promote the sharing of best practice between the police and the CPS.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Attorney-General what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61684]

The Solicitor-General: The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) has followed OGC Buying Solutions guidelines when drawing up new contracts since May 2010. Behavioural standards such as "acting in good faith", or paying subcontractors in the line with the principles of the Fair Payment guidance, are utilised variously at tender stage, in contract provisions and during service delivery according to the requirements of specific procurements projects.

Tsol is also responsible for procurement relating to the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Services Inspectorate.

Since May 2010, the SFO has issued model OGC Terms and Conditions for the majority of its contracts. The model terms make provision for behavioural standards under statutory obligations and regulations.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) issues standard contracts for the procurement of most goods and services. These contracts are based on the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) standard terms and conditions. However, the CPS standard contracts do not make specific provisions for behavioural standards of contractor personnel engaged on the contract. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has not issued any new procurement contracts since May 2010.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the roll-out of superfast broadband. [61133]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have allocated £530 million to ensure superfast broadband reaches at least 90% of households in each local authority. Four pilot projects were announced in October. Wiltshire, Devon and Somerset and Norfolk received second wave funding announced on 27 May. I will be announcing the allocations for the devolved Administrations and for local authorities in England in the near future.

Broadband: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much of the £530 million allocated for expenditure on superfast broadband by 2015 the Government plans to allocate to *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland; and when it plans to do so; [61964]

(2) which local authority areas in England are not to receive any of the funding allocated for the roll-out of superfast broadband during the comprehensive spending review period. [61965]

Mr Vaizey: The allocations for the three devolved Administrations and the English counties will be announced in July.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the provision by local authorities in England of the proportion of public funds they will be expected to provide to fund the roll-out of superfast broadband. [61966]

Mr Vaizey: I have communicated the broadband objectives and the funding requirements to Government Departments. As a result, there have been discussions between Ministers, including those in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Communities and Local Government, on the subject of broadband deployment.

Departmental Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to encourage charitable giving by Ministers in his Department. [57132]

John Penrose: The Government's White Paper on Giving published last month, sets out our plans to make it easier and more attractive to give time and money to good causes. As well as charitable giving, all Ministers, including those in this Department, have committed to give their time to good causes through the Volunteering Challenge.

Departmental Public Appointments

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of public appointments made to his Department and its arms length bodies have been women since May 2010; and if he will list each such appointment. [60014]

John Penrose *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* The number of public appointments made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) since May 2010 is 114, of which 48 were female (42%).

Information on this Department's individual public appointments is published on our website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/public_appointments/1006.aspx

Entry Clearances

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the potential effects on the UK visitor economy of the introduction of a pilot visa waiver scheme by the Government of Ireland. [60812]

John Penrose *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The British Government welcome the Visa Waiver programme and hope that it will lead to an increase in tourism and trade between our two countries. We are unable to estimate how many people from the countries included in the programme will wish to take advantage of this arrangement during the trial period and are, therefore, unable at this time to make an assessment of the potential effects on the UK visitor economy.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60687]

John Penrose: The stock of EU legislation in force is set out in the Eur-Lex database:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

It would be of disproportionate cost to review the entire stock to establish which pieces of legislation are currently the responsibility of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport or its predecessor Departments.

However, there are a number of directives which although they came into force before 1 April 2010, have been transposed since that date, and for which my Department has responsibility. The directives are of various natures and implications and I will write separately providing a detailed list.

Gambling

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to provide information for the public on the effects of gambling *(a)* in general and *(b)* on younger people. [61171]

John Penrose: The Government recognise the negative impact which problem gambling can have and, in particular, the risks to children and young people. We believe that it is the responsibility of the industry to fund appropriate research, education and treatment, including initiatives to raise awareness of the risks of problem gambling and where to seek help.

Recent industry funded work commissioned by the Responsible Gambling Fund includes, among other things, a harm prevention programme aimed at university students; launching innovative pilot projects in the midlands, Wales and Scotland led by addiction charities working in partnership with local statutory and voluntary sector partners such as citizens advice bureaux, GPs and other community-based bodies; launching a major project with the Royal College of GPs to train doctors and those who work with them to recognise gambling related harm and direct to appropriate help, and commissioning an accessible and cost effective National Gambling Helpline.

The Tote

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will increase the proportion of funds to be returned to racing from the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [61091]

John Penrose: The Government have no plans to increase beyond 50% the share of the net proceeds of the sale of the Tote that they intend to return to racing. This is the same proportion which was originally proposed by the previous Administration when they created the necessary legislation for the sale to proceed and, now that a substantially higher price has been achieved than was originally expected, should represent a windfall of approximately £90 million for racing.

Internet: Sex

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the report of Ofcom on access to sexually-explicit content on video on demand websites. [61579]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The Government have been considering the report and discussing matters with Ofcom and the Authority for Television on Demand (ATVOD). We intend to publish the report shortly.

Museums and Libraries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will review the Arts Council's museum and library functions in consultation with libraries and museums. [62194]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England's (ACE) development and delivery of museum and library functions is being closely monitored by officials and Ministers and will continue to be reviewed over the course of the spending period. To integrate museums and libraries functions into its work ACE has held roundtables and reference

groups with a range of stakeholders across the museums and libraries sectors to ensure support for these sectors continues.

Newspaper Press: Telephone Hacking

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will establish a judicial enquiry, with evidence to be taken on oath, into allegations of telephone hacking by members of the press and their associates. [61977]

Mr Vaizey: There are already a number of investigations looking in to the issue of phone hacking. These must be allowed to reach their conclusions without impediment. Any further Government action at this time might risk impeding those inquiries. We will be looking closely at the results of those, and determining then if any further action is needed.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many applications for London 2012 Olympics tickets were received from individuals in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Northern Ireland and *(e)* outside the UK; and how many applications from individuals in each nation were successful. [61316]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of Government, responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the 2012 games.

Overall at the close of the first application window in April 2011, 1.9 million applications were made for 22 million Olympic tickets. Over 95% of applications—and successful applications—were from UK residents. 700,000 applicants were successful in obtaining some or all of the tickets they applied for, securing a total of three million tickets. Successful applicants were, on average, allocated between four and five tickets, totalling around £275.

LOCOG have not broken down applications by region. Their initial assessment suggests that ticket applications were split approximately equally between London, the wider south-east and the rest of the UK.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 140W, on the Olympic Games 2012, what steps the London 2012 Organising Committee is taking to directly promote applications for tickets to attend London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics from schools in Scotland. [61319]

Hugh Robertson: Through a levy on high-end prestige ticket packages, the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is funding 200,000 'Ticketshare' tickets, which will see tickets donated to schools all over the UK, as well as other deserving organisations. Tickets will be distributed via schools and colleges that have signed up to LOCOG's Get Set Network, part of the official London 2012 Get Set Education Programme.

All schools and colleges in Scotland with pupils of relevant age have been encouraged to apply to the Get Set Network and therefore become eligible.

The Scottish Government sits on the Nations and Regions Group set up by the Government and LOCOG. The group works to maximise the benefits of the Games in Scotland and other nations and regions of the UK. This has supported initiatives such as LOCOG's work with Learning Teaching Scotland to promote the Get Set education programme, using their communication channels to help engage schools and colleges across Scotland in the Get Set Network.

Performing Arts: Licensing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent progress his Department has made on its proposals for live entertainment licensing; and if he will make a statement. [61973]

John Penrose: I intend to issue a public consultation in due course about proposals to reduce the licensing burdens on most forms of entertainment regulated under the Licensing Act.

Public Holidays

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish an assessment of his Department's pre-consultation on the proposal to move the May Day bank holiday. [62348]

John Penrose: The pre-consultation on bank holidays ended on 9 June. Over 2,500 responses were received and we expect to publish a response in due course.

Public Lending Right

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to announce the public body which will be responsible for the future administration of the public lending right. [62145]

Mr Vaizey: We are working to resolve as quickly as possible the issues associated with the transfer of the Public Lending Right's functions to another body in order to minimise the period of uncertainty regarding its future administration.

THQ

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he has had discussions with representatives of the video games industry on the closure of THQ's Warrington studios; [62154]

(2) whether he has had discussions with representatives of THQ on the closure of its Warrington studios. [62195]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not held discussions with THQ on the recent announcement of their plans to close THQ Digital in Warrington, nor representatives of the video games industry on this subject.

However, officials from UK Trade and Investment have been in regular contact with senior executives from the company.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62074]

David Mundell: During the last 12 months, the following expenses have been claimed by special advisers to the Secretary of State for Scotland:

Expenses claimed

	£
Paid special advisers	2,157
Unpaid special advisers	1,327

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61670]

David Mundell: Other than minor or bespoke purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Since May 2010 only one contract has been issued directly by the Scotland Office. The requirements of the contract did not call for specific behavioural standards.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62073]

Mr Paterson: Expenses totalling £1,898.00 for travel and subsistence have been claimed by the Northern Ireland Office's paid special adviser in the last 12 months.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61673]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office currently receives procurement advice and support from the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland. The Department of Finance and Personnel have 12 guiding principles to govern the administration of public procurement. These are contained within the "Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy".

Police Ombudsman

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times he has met the Police ombudsman since May 2010. [62164]

Mr Paterson: I have had one meeting with the Police ombudsman since May 2010.

Policing Board

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has held with the Policing Board for Northern Ireland since May 2010. [62178]

Mr Paterson: I have had no such meetings.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities: Urban Areas

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 358W, on departmental responsibilities: urban areas, on what date he plans to announce the appointment of Ministers with responsibility for cities in England. [60993]

The Prime Minister: The Government recognise the particular role of cities in driving balanced and sustainable growth across England, and the importance of appropriate mechanisms to support them (for example, ensuring that local leaders and enterprise partnerships have the freedoms and flexibilities they need to promote prosperity in their cities and beyond, and a means of overcoming any bureaucratic barriers that they encounter). An announcement will be made shortly on the ministerial structures which will be put in place to deliver these objectives.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Spellar: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Wansbeck of 18 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 342, on how many occasions he has been present at meetings with representatives of NHS South Central. [62451]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the list of Official Meetings by Ministers with External Organisations. This list was published for the first time in October 2010 and is published on a quarterly basis, in accordance with the new Ministerial Code. In addition I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues, officials and others.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fish kills were reported to the Environment Agency in each

region in each of the last five financial years; how many prosecutions were pursued in respect of fish kills; how many were unsuccessful; and how many penalties were issued as a result of successful prosecutions in each year. [61470]

Richard Benyon: A total of 1,071 fish kills were recorded as reported to the Environment Agency in the last five year period across all regions.

It is not possible to draw a direct correlation between fish kills and prosecutions pursued for a variety of reasons. These include:

a proportion of fish kills are reported on still waters where either natural causes or disease is suspected and no pollution is implicated;

not all detected pollution incidents result in fish kills.

However, the following table shows the number of water pollution cases that have been brought by the Environment Agency over the last five years and the number of successful prosecutions.

Water pollution prosecutions (Water Resources Act 1991, Section 85(1))

Financial year	*Total prosecutions*	*Successful prosecutions*
2006	202	200
2007	168	165
2008	144	144
2009	125	121
2010	111	106

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who fished, excluding sea anglers, in each of the last five financial years; and what estimate she has made of likely income from rod licences in 2011-12. [61472]

Richard Benyon: In 2010, the Environment Agency (EA) commissioned a report entitled "Public Attitudes to Angling". This survey sought to assess the levels of participation in freshwater and sea angling. Similar work was previously undertaken in 2005.

The 2010 survey indicated that 9% of the population within England and Wales (4.2 million) have been freshwater fishing within the last two years. 3.3 million anglers had been fishing within the previous year. The report suggests possible reasons for the discrepancy between this figure and the 1.3 million rod licences sold may include:

high evasion levels among anglers who fish infrequently;

interpretation of 'going fishing', for example, accompanying an angler rather than personally fishing which would not require a licence.

The EA's target for rod licence income for 2011-12 is £24.4 million.

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reports of suspected illegal fish movement the Environment Agency received in each region in each of the last five financial years; what the source of the report was in each case; how many illegal fish movements were discovered by Environment Agency personnel in the course of their duties in each region; how many prosecutions arose from suspected illegal fish movements; how many such prosecutions were unsuccessful; and in how many cases penalties were issued as a result of successful prosecutions in each year. [61474]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is unable to distinguish between reports of illegal fish movement and reports of illegal fishing within their existing incident reporting system. For the last five-year period to 31 March 2011 the Environment Agency received a total of 1,281 reports from members of the public. This figure is inclusive of all alleged angling related offences rather than only reports of illegal fish introductions to inland waters.

The following table shows the number of cases prosecuted for introduction of fish without consent under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act in the last five years:

Introduction of fish without consent

Financial year	*Total prosecutions*	*Successful prosecutions*
2006	3	3
2007	3	3
2008	1	1
2009	1	1
2010	0	0

Angling: Licensing

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much income the Environment Agency received from rod licences on which a concession was available in each of the last five financial years; and how much such income it expects to receive in 2011-12. [61417]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the income received by the Environment Agency from the sale of concessionary rod licences in each of the last five years:

£

	Senior and disabled	*Junior*	*Total*
2006-07	1,836,192	588,850	2,425,042
2007-08	2,064,550	631,195	2,695,745
2008-09	2,845,665	608,895	3,454,560
2009-10	3,369,206	648,225	4,017,431
2010-11	3,601,590	597,600	4,199,190

The following table shows the expected income in 2011-12.

£

	Senior and disabled	*Junior*	*Total*
2011-12	3,459,795	574,072	4,033,868

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much income the Environment Agency received from rod licences for each category of licence in each region in each of the last five financial years; and how much such income it expects to receive in 2011-12. [61418]

Richard Benyon: Historical rod licence sales figures have been published in the "Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Statistics" series. Income received in each region for each category of licence for the last five years is as in the following tables.

2006-07 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,076,072	245,856	83,725	46,087	146,549	2,598,289
Anglian	2,598,432	252,924	95,760	60,367	136,234	3,143,717
Thames	2,732,928	230,424	93,285	74,095	180,963	3,311,695
Southern	1,408,944	123,456	58,590	43,750	104,497	1,739,237
South West	1,073,832	104,580	43,180	26,792	75,270	1,323,654
Midlands	3,163,608	371,520	110,320	62,739	187,652	3,895,838
E.A. Wales	747,432	81,564	34,800	15,742	56,508	936,046
North West	1,671,696	180,936	62,065	36,210	75,390	2,026,297
Others	161,280	16,164	7,125	17,901	17,280	219,750
Total	15,634,224	1,607,424	588,850	383,682	980,343	19,194,523

£

			Salmon and sea trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	182,065	36,205	6,335	9,626	234,230	2,832,519
Anglian	14,755	4,680	5,699	2,167	27,301	3,171,017
Thames	57,850	9,880	10,640	5,981	84,350	3,396,045
Southern	29,900	7,443	4,838	2,012	44,192	1,783,429
South West	113,555	25,480	4,797	5,049	148,881	1,472,535
Midlands	76,635	22,978	6,806	5,258	111,677	4,007,515
E.A. Wales	262,860	65,000	4,490	4,853	337,203	1,273,249
North West	225,030	52,033	6,089	9,349	292,500	2,318,797
Others	19,305	5,070	3,485	2,052	29,912	249,662
Total	981,955	228,768	53,177	46,346	1,310,245	20,504,768

2007-08 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,153,305	274,988	89,060	50,943	162,767	2,731,062
Anglian	2,784,842	290,876	106,620	69,983	154,395	3,406,715
Thames	2,890,241	259,394	101,520	83,204	202,816	3,537,174
Southern	1,461,450	139,589	62,980	50,155	117,540	1,831,713
South West	1,135,159	118,164	44,925	30,546	84,146	1,412,939
Midlands	3,244,045	418,448	114,400	64,330	188,104	4,029,326
E.A. Wales	809,358	95,660	39,490	17,841	64,734	1,027,083
North West	1,790,142	208,691	69,115	40,915	82,992	2,191,855
Unknown	75,338	7,571	3,085	22,435	13,770	122,198
Total	16,343,877	1,813,380	631,195	430,351	1,071,262	20,290,064

£

			Salmon and sea trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	193,515	39,468	5,901	9,443	248,327	2,979,389
Anglian	17,689	4,522	5,985	2,240	30,436	3,437,151
Thames	64,838	11,937	11,487	6,027	94,288	3,631,463
Southern	30,923	8,013	4,536	1,981	45,453	1,877,166
South West	119,501	28,462	4,893	5,558	158,414	1,571,353
Midlands	79,867	24,339	6,825	4,970	116,001	4,145,327
E.A. Wales	279,699	73,350	3,864	5,642	362,555	1,389,637
North West	233,216	56,259	5,628	8,477	303,580	2,495,434
Unknown	18,953	4,821	3,402	1,610	28,786	150,984
Total	1,038,198	251,171	52,521	45,948	1,387,838	21,677,902

2008-09 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,068,825	359,120	78,440	48,969	170,349	2,725,703
Anglian	2,834,875	419,236	104,900	73,278	171,497	3,603,785
Thames	2,928,875	361,365	97,800	84,231	221,256	3,693,527

2008-09 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
Southern	1,475,150	200,129	60,915	50,661	124,719	1,911,574
South West	1,135,575	165,055	43,050	32,148	87,598	1,463,426
Midlands	3,283,625	594,223	111,525	69,714	218,694	4,277,781
E.A. Wales	721,225	119,796	32,760	16,596	62,290	952,667
North West	1,921,250	312,605	70,650	46,521	104,307	2,455,333
Unknown	23,875	2,647	1,415	18,819	9,212	55,968
Total	16,393,275	2,534,175	601,455	440,937	1,169,921	21,139,762

£

			Salmon and sea trout				
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	202,572	50,625	1,100	6,754	10,193	271,244	2,996,946
Anglian	21,692	6,525	285	6,930	2,760	38,192	3,641,977
Thames	70,856	12,915	630	12,518	7,110	104,029	3,797,556
Southern	32,300	8,820	330	5,236	2,625	49,311	1,960,885
South West	125,120	35,595	745	5,566	7,568	174,594	1,638,019
Midlands	81,736	31,860	420	7,678	5,775	127,469	4,405,250
E.A. Wales	281,452	88,560	2,315	4,972	5,790	383,089	1,335,756
North West	246,228	73,845	1,525	6,754	9,465	337,817	2,793,150
Unknown	7,616	2,745	90	2,816	1,733	15,000	70,967
Total	1,069,572	311,490	7,440	59,224	53,018	1,500,744	22,640,506

2009-10 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,345,954	416,622	84,345	52,991	195,451	3,095,363
Anglian	3,173,690	502,924	111,805	75,630	194,999	4,059,047
Thames	3,268,668	430,112	99,300	89,775	253,229	4,141,083
Southern	1,647,542	243,001	63,710	51,956	139,594	2,145,802
South West	1,270,334	200,549	44,865	33,032	93,909	1,642,688
Midlands	3,642,938	695,158	117,785	70,376	238,928	4,765,184
E.A. Wales	820,820	145,211	34,585	16,701	65,275	1,082,592
North West	2,153,476	368,012	73,060	46,313	114,937	2,755,797
Unknown	42,614	5,710	1,970	25,033	12,215	87,541
Total	18,366,036	3,007,296	631,425	461,805	1,308,535	23,775,096

£

			Salmon and sea trout				
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	209,090	58,032	2,475	6,143	11,098	286,838	3,382,200
Anglian	22,610	9,114	1,230	6,998	2,899	42,850	4,101,897
Thames	80,990	15,996	2,070	13,770	8,548	121,374	4,262,457
Southern	33,460	11,672	1,295	5,603	2,511	54,540	2,200,342
South West	132,300	41,339	1,455	4,590	6,719	186,403	1,829,090
Midlands	85,750	35,526	1,570	7,425	5,371	135,642	4,900,826
E.A. Wales	288,330	101,649	3,670	4,005	4,635	402,289	1,484,880
North West	255,570	85,374	2,920	5,940	8,975	358,779	3,114,575
Unknown	9,450	3,209	115	3,038	1,922	17,733	105,274
Total	1,117,550	361,910	—	57,510	52,677	1,606,446	25,381,542

2010-11 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,309,850	447,354	77,760	56,700	201,626	3,093,290
Anglian	3,130,542	540,216	101,945	79,320	212,205	4,064,228
Thames	3,205,548	460,602	91,915	96,430	276,908	4,131,403
Southern	1,613,790	264,906	58,935	56,890	149,213	2,143,734
South West	1,256,607	218,304	39,840	33,770	104,895	1,653,416
Midlands	3,629,124	751,302	110,320	74,270	268,403	4,833,419

2010-11 Rod licence income

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
E.A. Wales	682,020	134,532	26,540	14,830	64,065	921,987
North West	2,205,279	409,482	70,910	54,320	140,063	2,880,054
Unknown	46,089	7,452	1,955	24,640	12,068	92,204
Total	18,078,849	3,234,150	580,120	491,170	1,429,444	23,813,733

£

			Salmon and sea trout				
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	205,848	59,616	2,850	7,337	12,512	288,163	3,381,453
Anglian	21,816	9,552	1,285	7,590	2,976	43,219	4,107,447
Thames	92,368	17,232	1,975	12,673	8,744	122,992	4,254,395
Southern	33,336	12,048	1,200	4,807	2,536	53,927	2,197,661
South West	129,024	42,672	1,555	4,715	6,616	184,582	1,837,998
Midlands	90,504	38,928	1,710	7,613	5,424	144,179	4,977,598
E.A. Wales	251,856	92,448	3,660	4,669	5,928	358,561	1,280,548
North West	256,536	91,584	3,160	7,222	9,984	368,486	3,248,540
Unknown	9,936	3,360	85	4,025	2,224	19,630	111,834
Total	1,081,224	367,440	17,480	60,651	56,944	1,583,739	25,397,472

Forecast rod licence income 2011-12

£

			Coarse and trout			
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total C and T*
North East	2,218,911	429,742	74,699	54,468	193,688	£2,971,507
Anglian	3,007,292	518,948	97,931	76,197	203,850	£3,904,219
Thames	3,079,345	442,468	88,296	92,634	266,006	£3,968,749
Southern	1,550,255	254,477	56,615	54,650	143,338	£2,059,335
South West	1,207,134	209,709	38,271	32,440	100,765	£1,588,321
Midlands	3,486,245	721,723	105,977	71,346	257,835	£4,643,126
E.A. Wales	655,169	129,235	25,495	14,246	61,543	£885,688
North West	2,118,457	393,361	68,118	52,181	134,548	£2,766,666
Unknown	44,274	7,159	1,878	23,670	11,592	£88,573
Total	17,367,083	3,106,821	557,281	471,833	1,373,166	£22,876,184

£

			Salmon and sea trout				
Region	*Full*	*Concession*	*Junior*	*8 day*	*1 day*	*Total salmon*	*Total*
North East	197,744	57,269	2,738	7,048	12,019	276,818	3,248,325
Anglian	20,957	9,176	1,234	7,291	2,859	41,517	3,945,736
Thames	79,125	16,554	1,897	12,174	8,400	118,150	4,086,899
Southern	32,024	11,574	1,153	4,618	2,436	51,804	2,111,138
South West	123,944	40,992	1,494	4,529	6,356	177,315	1,765,636
Midlands	86,941	37,395	1,643	7,313	5,210	138,503	4,781,629
E.A. Wales	241,940	88,808	3,516	4,485	5,695	344,444	1,230,133
North West	246,436	87,978	3,036	6,938	9,591	353,979	3,120,644
Unknown	9,545	3,228	82	3,867	2,136	18,857	107,431
Total	1,038,656	352,974	16,792	58,263	54,702	1,521,387	24,397,571

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bridgend of 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 341W, on bovine tuberculosis: cattle, what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have made at EU level on the legal framework required to permit vaccination of cattle against bovine tuberculosis; and if she will make a statement. [61824]

Mr Paice: The possible future use of cattle vaccines is discussed regularly at both ministerial and official level with the European Commission. The Commission has indicated that any changes to the legal framework cannot be considered until a vaccine is ready for licensing, a DIVA test (to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals) has been validated and sufficient evidence of the effectiveness of both is available. This work is underway and we will continue to work closely with the Commission and other member states as it progresses.

Coastal Areas: Public Footpaths

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she

plans to exercise her functions under Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to put in place a walking route around the whole of the English coast; and when she plans to announce the creation of sections of the route beyond those set out by Natural England in March 2011. [62406]

Richard Benyon: The Government plans to introduce the new right of coastal access under Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 on a 30 kilometre stretch of the English coast between Portland and Lulworth Cove in Dorset in time for the Olympic and Paralympic sailing events which begin in July 2012.

We will be discussing with Natural England its priorities and timetable for implementation of the coastal access provisions beyond the initial coastal stretches set out by Natural England in March 2011. We will make an announcement once those discussions have been completed.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the target contained in the communication of the European Commission on Implementing Sustainability in EU Fisheries through maximum Sustainable Yield COM (2006) 360 on the implementation of a maximum sustainable yield for fisheries by 2015. [61595]

Richard Benyon: The UK is committed to achieving the goal of managing fish stocks for the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) level, as the EU committed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002. We support the European Commission's proposals to move to setting total allowable catches (or TACs) in such a way to transition to MSY by 2015, where possible and believe this should be achieved through long-term management plans, where in place, and where not through a gradual approach towards MSY as provided for under the WSSD commitment.

Dairy Farming: Antibiotics

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the levels of antibiotic treatments used in the dairy sector in each of the last four years. [61601]

Mr Paice: Amounts of antimicrobials sold as active ingredients are reported and published annually in arrears on the Veterinary Medicines website at:

www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/public/antimicrobial_pubs.aspx

The report specifically shows amounts of veterinary antimicrobial products sold for use in cattle, but given that some of these products are used in either dairy or beef cattle, a distinction between use by the two sectors is not made. The report shows that over the last four reporting years the amount of antimicrobials sold for cattle as being: 10 tonnes in 2006, 9 tonnes in 2007, 10 tonnes in 2008 and 10 tonnes in 2009.

The amounts sold as cattle intra-mammary products are included in these quantities, but are also given separately and these are: 3.35 tonnes in 2006; 3.25 tonnes in 2007; 4.09 tonnes in 2008 and 3.17 tonnes in 2009.

The total amounts of veterinary antimicrobials used to treat all species of animals in the UK. during the same period was 405 tonnes in 2006; 387 tonnes in 2007; 384 tonnes in 2008 and 402 tonnes in 2009.

Data for 2010 are currently being collected prior to publication later this year.

Farms: Educational Visits

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department provided for educational visits by school children to farms in the latest period for which figures are available. [61557]

Mr Paice: Payments are available to farmers who host farm educational visits as part of an agri-environment scheme agreement (the Higher Level Stewardship element of Environmental Stewardship, and its predecessor Countryside Stewardship).

£1.55 million was spent on annual (revenue) payments for educational visits to farms in 2010-11, with well over 100,000 children having benefited from these visits.

Fisheries

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on employment of fisheries staff in each employment category *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much it spent on (i) office rental, (ii) transport and (iii) other non-personnel overheads (A) nationally and (B) in each region. [61473]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the Environment Agency Fisheries budgets for 2011-12 with allocation of costs for employment of staff delivering fisheries outcomes including building occupancy costs, travel and subsistence and other non-personnel overheads for each region and nationally (including support and once only).

Fisheries budgets, 2011-12

£000

	2011-12 total	*Personnel costs*	*Projects*	*Building costs*	*Travel and subsistence*	*Other non-personnel overheads*
Regional						
Anglian[1]	2,080	1,613	250	4	140	73
Midlands[1]	2,772	2,216	258	6	193	100
North East[1]	2,800	2,260	236	6	197	102
North West[1]	2,965	2,419	220	6	211	109

Fisheries budgets, 2011-12

£000

	2011-12 total	Personnel costs	Projects	Building costs	Travel and subsistence	Other non-personnel overheads
South East[1]	3,390	2,573	471	6	224	116
South West[1]	2,585	2,101	201	5	183	95
Wales[2]	7,228	5,721	198	358	380	570
Total	23,820	18,904	1,834	391	1,527	1,164
National						
Evidence	968	483	439	0	29	16
Communications	297	259	—	0	21	18
Head Office Operations	277	241	—	0	19	17
Environment and Business	1,632	1,064	410	0	85	73
National Fisheries projects	2,105	0	2,105	—	—	—
Chief Executive's Directorate	216	188	—	0	15	13
Total	5,495	2,235	2,954	0	169	136
Once only						
National Monitoring	969	790	—	4	37	137
National Enforcement	2,603	1,622	762	3	82	134
Legal	379	330	—	—	26	23
Corporate Information Systems	3,482	218	3,094	2	24	144
Fleet Operations	511	75	82	0	341	13
Total	7,944	3,034	3,938	9	510	452
Support						
Resources	1,154	797	270	0	55	31
Finance	574	500	—	—	40	34
Procurement	162	141	—	—	11	10
Facilities[3]	1,703	365	0	*1,099	17	222
Total	3,593	1,803	270	1,099	123	297
Total	40,852	25,976	8,997	1,500	2,330	2,049

[1] Office rental costs for English regions are paid for by National Facilities*.
[2] Wales pay office rental costs themselves.
[3] Facilities pay office rental costs for England.
Note:
Those results including "—" determine that figures have been included in the cost of projects. Results including "0" mean that there have been no costs incurred.

Fisheries: Finance

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much fisheries-specific funding from *(a)* grant in aid and *(b)* other sources of income the Environment Agency spent on (i) committees, (ii) enforcement, (iii) licence checks, (iv) monitoring, (v) fish rearing, (vi) regulation, (vii) fish kills or rescues, (viii) improvements or improvement projects, (ix) promotion and advice and (x) each other budget heading used by the Agency (A) nationally and (B) in each region in each of the last five financial years; and how much funding it has allocated in each category for 2011-12. [61469]

Richard Benyon: The following table gives details of where funding is allocated across national and regional units in 2010-11 and the planned budget for 2011-12.

Allocation of Environment Agency fisheries funding, 2010-11 and 2011-12

£000

		2010-11			Budget 2011-12		
	Department	GiA	Income	Total	GiA	Income	Total
Regional	Anglian	94	2,262	2,357	131	1,949	2,080
	Midlands	262	2,361	2,624	550	2,222	2,772
	North East	1,454	1,513	2,967	1,700	1,100	2,800
	North West	1,686	1,272	2,958	1,900	1,065	2,965
	South East	389	3,467	3,856	470	2,920	3,390
	South West	1,510	1,339	2,849	1,600	985	2,585

Allocation of Environment Agency fisheries funding, 2010-11 and 2011-12

£000

	Department	2010-11 GiA	2010-11 Income	2010-11 Total	Budget 2011-12 GiA	Budget 2011-12 Income	Budget 2011-12 Total
	Wales	4,346	2,403	6,749	4,186	3,042	7,228
	Subtotal	9,742	14,617	24,359	10,537	13,283	23,820
National	Evidence	63	898	960	192	776	968
	Communications	7	102	109	59	238	297
	National Operations	87	186	273	134	143	277
	Environment and Business	232	1,026	1,258	358	1,274	1,632
	National projects	0	2,299	2,299	0	2,105	2,105
	CSPS	15	219	234	43	173	216
	Subtotal	405	4,729	5,134	786	4,709	5,495
Once only	NMES	279	673	952	177	792	969
	National Enforcement Service	134	2,330	2,465	445	2,158	2,603
	Legal	0	482	482	75	304	379
	CIS	143	1,890	2,033	650	2,832	3,482
	Fleet ops	113	334	447	89	422	511
	Subtotal	669	5,710	6,379	1,436	6,508	7,944
Support	Resources	81	1,164	1,245	411	743	1,154
	Finance	77	1,104	1,181	114	460	574
	Procurement	5	67	71	32	130	162
	Facilities	96	1,367	1,463	320	1,383	1,703
	Subtotal	259	3,702	3,961	877	2,716	3,593
Grand total		11,074	28,759	39,833	13,636	27,216	40,852

The Environment Agency undertook a full analysis of Fisheries funding in 2010 to build a detailed picture of current delivery and work programme. This review showed the current method of delivery across activities, and highlighted what activities are dependent on GiA. This approach has proved valuable in planning where changes may be made in delivery.

The following table shows the split of funding across activities undertaken within the Environment Agency regions. Fish rearing budgets are held within regional fisheries improvement budgets.

Allocation of resources to Environment Agency regions for fisheries activities, 2010-11

Activity	Total funding (£000)	Percentage funding
Fisheries improvement projects	7,592	31
Licence checks	2,133	9
Salmon anti-poaching	3,018	12
Coarse fish enforcement	612	3
Regulation	1,399	6
Promotion and advice	4,554	19
Committees	887	4
Incidents	2,296	9
Monitoring	1,868	8
Total	24,359	

The following table shows allocation of fisheries funding to regions by activity for the period from 2006-07 to 2009-10.

Allocation of funding to regions for fisheries activities, 2006-07 to 2009-10

£

Activity	2006	2007	2008	2009
Committees	453	733	765	807
Enforcement	3,296	4,237	4,264	4,298
Licence Checks	2,734	1,991	1,991	2,132
Monitoring	226	1,844	1,844	1,867
Regulation	948	811	811	810
Fish Kills	1,078	1,864	1,953	2,069
Improvements	5,226	4,820	5,351	5,419
Promotion and Advice	1,514	2,686	3,864	4,096
Total	15,475	18,986	20,843	21,498

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fisheries-specific grant-in-aid her Department provided to the Environment Agency in each of the last five financial years; and how much such funding she has allocated for 2011-12. [61420]

Richard Benyon: In 2006-07 and 2007-08, DEFRA provided £5.892 million grant in aid in each year to the Environment Agency specifically for fisheries. Since 2008-09, fisheries grant in aid has been combined with the Environment Agency's other funding from DEFRA, and the Environment Agency has continued to deliver equivalent outcomes.

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what fisheries-specific income other than grant in aid from her Department and rod licence income the Environment Agency received in each of the last five financial years; and how much such income it will receive in 2011-12. [61421]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the fisheries specific income other than grant in aid and rod licence income received in each of the last five financial years as well as an estimated income for 2011-12:

Fisheries related income (excluding DEFRA grant in aid, and rod licences)

Source of income	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	£ *2011-12*[1]
Other fishing licences	134,487	196,467	190,880	148,415	179,906	189,000
Fish sales	12,499	22,890	20,517	30,034	47,709	18,000
Grants—EC	124,065	105,870	11,576	20,643	159,021	843,000
Grants—beneficiaries	79,353	33,541	10,398	31,708	80,340	[2]—
Grants —lottery	26,457	—	—	—	—	[2]—
Grants—other	1,217	3,760	5,081	6,972	9,879	[2]—
Other income—estates	24,903	19,980	33,235	10,157	44,952	[2]—
Other Income—legal costs recovered	319,574	424,710	351,122	493,798	226,951	[2]—
Other income—rechargeable works	8,516	25,400	25,239	66,296	91,773	[2]—
Other income—provision of information	6,258	10,148	31,369	33,533	29,082	[2]—
Other income-miscellaneous	229,682	541,207	445,011	487,927	273,281	[2]—
Total	967,011	1,383,973	1,124,428	1,329,483	1,142,894	1,050,000

[1] Estimated
[2] Indicates brace

Food

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to support the sale and production of local food. [62157]

Mr Paice: To meet the growing demand for more food with a local and regional provenance, our food and drink producers' access to market must be improved. We are providing funding under the Rural Development Programme for England for a range of measures aimed at supporting the availability of local food, including assistance to individual food producers and retail outlets, food hubs and farmers' markets.

I welcome the fact that retailers have put in place policies aimed at increasing the availability of regional and local food on their shelves. This provides opportunities for UK farmers to capture a greater market share by becoming more competitive.

Research shows consumers are increasingly concerned about the origins of their food, and the Government are committed to clearer origin labelling to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices about the food they buy.

We are also committed to ensuring that food procured by Government Departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British or equivalent standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs.

Litter: Publicity

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department has allocated for the Love Where You Live campaign. [61558]

Richard Benyon: 'Love Where You Live' is a campaign run by the charity Keep Britain Tidy.

The coalition Government provide grant funding to Keep Britain Tidy (£4 million in 2011-12) to work for improved local environmental quality, to provide advice to local and national government on all aspects of litter prevention, management and measurement. Partners from business are also making voluntary contributions to the campaign both financially and in kind.

Meat

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* regulatory implications of the artificial cultivation of meat in laboratories. [62044]

Mr Paice: If the artificial cultivation of meat in laboratories shows signs of becoming a realistic commercial proposition, I will assess the environmental implications. Meanwhile, I have noted that a number of research teams are carrying out their own assessments.

The production of artificial meat has so far been for experimental purposes only.

The Food Standards Agency has advised that under the EU novel foods regulation, artificial meat would require pre-market evaluation and authorisation before it could be placed on the market.

National Parks

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when her Department expects to publish its review of governance arrangements for national parks and the broads. [61610]

Richard Benyon: We are carefully considering the proposals for change which each of the national park authorities and the broads authority submitted following the public consultation and we will give our response in due course.

Nature Conservation: Outdoor Education

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions Ministers in her Department have had with Ministers in the Department for Education on outdoor education and young people's access to the natural environment; and on what dates such discussions took place. [61556]

Richard Benyon: I have been in regular contact with ministerial colleagues across Government throughout the development of the Natural Environment White Paper, which sets out a range of measures on outdoor education and young people's access to the natural environment. DEFRA Ministers were in regular written communication with their counterparts in the Department of Education (DfE) throughout this process.

Officials are continuing to engage with DfE on this issue as part of the development of the forthcoming Government-wide rural statement and DEFRA Ministers will follow this up with DfE Ministers as part of the implementation process.

Sonae: Pollution

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints her Department and its predecessor have received about air pollution related to the Sonae factory in Kirkby in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost to the public purse was of responding to each such complaint. [61239]

Richard Benyon: Departmental records show officials were aware of concerns about the Sonae particleboard manufacturing plant back to September 2005 and have discussed emissions issues with the local environmental health officers since then. Two parliamentary questions were asked in April 2007, and there was one exchange of correspondence each with the Council Leader and the right hon. Member in November 2007. There have, however, been no official complaints to the Department from members of the public on this issue.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential effect on *(a)* general public health and *(b)* the health of the local population of air pollution related to the Sonae factory in Kirkby; and if she will estimate the cost to the NHS of treatment of any conditions attributable to such pollution. [61308]

Richard Benyon: Regulation of pollution from the Sonae particleboard manufacturing plant is the responsibility of Knowsley metropolitan borough council under the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999.

DEFRA issues guidance to local authorities on what constitutes the Best Available Techniques for minimising pollution from such factories. It would be open to the council to seek guidance from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on potential or actual impacts of emissions on general public health or the health of the local population. The HPA may, as a result, be aware of whether such emissions can be linked to any increase in NHS costs.

Tyres

Karen Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations govern the use of tyre bales for land engineering. [61485]

Richard Benyon: The use of waste tyre bales requires an environmental permit (or the registration of an appropriate exemption from the need for an environmental permit) under EU legislation; this is to prevent harm to human health and the environment. The EU requirements are implemented through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the main competent authority responsible for determining applications for environmental permits and registering exemptions. The EA must be told the location of the site where the waste tyres bales are to be used as part of the application or registration procedure. A land engineering project may require planning permission from the relevant local planning authority.

Karen Bradley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether tyre bales used for land engineering are classified as waste for the purposes of Article 6 (1) and (2) of Directive 2008/98/EC; [61486]

(2) whether her Department has submitted an application under the provisions of Article 6 (4) of Directive 2008/98/EC for tyre bales used for land engineering to be considered as having ceased to be waste; and if she will make a statement. [61489]

Richard Benyon: Tyres that have been discarded are waste in accordance with article 3 of directive 2008/98/EC (the waste framework directive).

We have not notified a decision under the procedures of article 6(4) of directive 2008/98/EC in respect of tyre bales having ceased to be waste.

An Environment Agency and industry project is assessing the suitability of developing a quality protocol for tyre bales. A quality protocol identifies the point at which waste has been fully recovered and may be regarded as a non-waste product or material that can either be reused by business or industry, or supplied into markets without the need for waste management controls. However, further research and investigation needs to be undertaken to develop a quality protocol for tyre bales to meet the end-of-waste criteria and cease to be waste.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Government Procurement Card

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level three or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Waste and Resources Action Programme using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [61769]

Richard Benyon: The Waste and Resources Action Programme does not use Government Procurement Cards.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized bus operators of reductions to the Bus Service Operators Grant, changes to concessionary fares and reductions in county council funding. [58260]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of the effect on small and medium-sized bus operators of reductions to Bus Service Operators Grant or reductions in county council funding.

The Department has published its impact assessment for the changes to reimbursement arrangements on its website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-34/ia.pdf

A copy of the Impact Assessment for the Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011 has been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament. Both impact assessments consider the impact of the reimbursement reforms on different sizes of bus operators.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on small and medium-sized bus companies of changes to *(a)* arrangements for reimbursement of concessionary fares, *(b)* payment method of Bus Service Operators' Grant to the administered by local authorities and passenger transport executive groups. [58764]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has published its impact assessment for the changes to reimbursement arrangements on its website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-34/ia.pdf

A copy of the Impact Assessment for the Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011 has been placed in the Library of each House of Parliament. Both impact assessments consider the impact of the reimbursement reforms on different sizes of bus operators.

The Department published in 2009 an impact assessment of the impact of devolution of all bus subsidy, including Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG), to local authorities which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/busgrants/bsog/ia-bsog.pdf

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on bus services and fares of changes to the payment method of Bus Service Operators Grant to be administered by local authorities and passenger transport executive groups. [58768]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has not made an assessment of the potential effect on bus services and fares of changes to the payment method of Bus Service Operators' Grant to be administered by local authorities and passenger transport executive groups.

The Department published in 2009 an impact assessment of the impact of devolution of all bus subsidy, including BSOG, to local authorities which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/busgrants/bsog/ia-bsog.pdf

The Department is working with bus operators and local government to look at smarter ways of delivering bus subsidy, and are keen to see what can be developed by consensus between local authorities and operators.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of journeys made by freight trains travelling to and from London along the High Speed One link in each year since it opened. [62192]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. This is a matter for HS1 Ltd.

Crossrail: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 574W, on Crossrail: rolling stock, how many carriages are to be allocated to the Manchester to Scotland subfleet as part of the London Midland allocation of 69 vehicles. [62462]

Mrs Villiers: The 69 London Midland vehicles are diesel trains that London Midland ordered in 2007 to replace older trains within their existing fleet, and therefore have no connection with the proposed new Manchester to Scotland electric trains.

Subject to successful completion of commercial negotiations between the parties and value for money criteria being achieved, the Department expects that later this year at least 36 vehicles will be ordered for Manchester-Scotland services in combination with additional vehicles for London Midland capacity enhancement, the number of which has yet to be finalised.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many uninsured drivers have been issued with a fixed penalty notice for the offence in each year since its introduction; and how much accrued in fixed penalty fines in each such year. [61279]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested on the number of fixed penalty notices for vehicle insurance offences issued (and paid), from their introduction on 1 June 2003 to 2009 (latest available) is provided in the table.

The charge imposed for these fixed penalties is £200.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for vehicle insurance offences, England and Wales, 2003-09

	Number
2003[2]	458
2004	1,463
2005	2,688
2006	6,652
2007	12,960

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for vehicle insurance offences, England and Wales, 2003-09

	Number
2008	16,388
2009	20,045

[1] Includes only fixed penalty notices paid.
[2] Offence introduced in June 2003.

Driving Tests: Bury

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is taking steps to enable the driving test centre in Bury, Lancashire to re-open. [62188]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is committed to re-opening the driving test centre (DTC) at Bury. The property suffered extensive damage from flooding in late 2010.

DSA took the opportunity presented by the temporary closure to review the design and layout of the centre to improve facilities for customers and staff. However, obtaining feasibility studies, architectural and engineering plans and costings has taken longer than expected. Building works, which will be subject to a competitive tender exercise, and the planned reopening is scheduled for late 2011.

Driving: Diabetes

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* amend the rules for issuing Group 2 medical licences to drivers with insulin-dependent diabetes in line with EU Directive 2009/113/EC and *(b)* permit insulin-dependent diabetics to obtain a Group 2 licence where, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, their condition is properly controlled and they pose no risk to themselves or other road users. [62190]

Mike Penning: Proposals to revise the medical standards for vision, epilepsy and diabetes and driving were detailed in a public consultation which closed on 28 April. The responses made are now being analysed and further input from some of those who have responded may be necessary. The outcome of this will inform our decisions on what changes, if any, are appropriate.

The medical licensing standards currently in place contribute to the UK having some of the safest roads in the world. Any decisions about changes, which may potentially relax these standards, cannot be taken lightly.

Driving: Licensing

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any changes have been made to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority form D45 in the last 10 years. [62557]

Mike Penning: The form that the hon. Member may be referring to is the D46 form which was used by drivers to renew their driving licence at the age of 70. This form was amended in March 2004 when the requirement to pay a fee for this transaction was removed. It was further amended in July 2005 to include a facility to attach a photograph of the driver. At this point, the form number was amended to the D46P.

First Capital Connect

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to investigate the events surrounding the train failure incident involving a First Capital Connect service near Kentish Town on the evening of 26 May 2011. [61885]

Mrs Villiers: The Rail Accident Investigation Branch has confirmed that it will be conducting an investigation into the incident on 26 May 2011, and in particular, looking into First Capital Connect's response to the train failure.

Her Majesty's railway inspectorate is also carrying out an investigation in line with its regulatory role.

I await the findings of these bodies who are responsible for investigating such incidents.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what date his Department is using to determine the pre-blight value of properties purchased under the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [62185]

Mr Philip Hammond: Valuations of properties accepted for purchase under the Exceptional Hardship Scheme are made using an independent assessment by qualified valuers. The valuers use their professional knowledge and expertise to establish the unaffected realistic open market value of the property on the date that the valuation takes place (that is, what would have been the value of the property without any adverse effect arising from proposals for a high speed rail line).

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the process is for awarding tenders to companies bidding to design trains running along the proposed High Speed Two line from London to Birmingham; and which firms have *(a)* inquired about submitting and *(b)* submitted bids. [61757]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* No rolling stock procurement strategy has yet been determined, no procurement process commenced, and, therefore, no bids have been received. As the Department is currently consulting the public on the principle of High Speed Two (HS2) and is yet to seek powers from Parliament, it would be inappropriate to prepare a procurement strategy at this stage. However, the Department would ensure that any future procurement is undertaken in accordance with EU treaty principles which ensure fair and open competition and thereby value for money for the taxpayer. No inquiries have been received in relation to submitting bids for the design of rolling stock for HS2.

High Speed Two: Fares

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of High Speed Two on fares on *(a)* the west coast main line and *(b)* other services on similar routes. [61756]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The business case for High Speed Two (HS2) assumes that the existing fares structure would operate on both the existing lines and on HS2. Depending on the franchise or other management and operating arrangements introduced on each respective line, it would be possible that the increase in passenger capacity would apply a downward pressure on fares. The project is currently at an early stage; subject to the outcome of the current consultation, these issues would be considered in more detail as the project is developed. Failing to provide sufficient additional capacity on the west coast and other main lines would be likely to lead to an upward pressure on fares.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Scotland

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with which bodies the Maritime and Coastguard Agency holds contracts relating to accommodation and facilities management for its offices in Scotland. [62143]

Mike Penning: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) uses 163 properties in Scotland, including volunteer Coastguard Rescue Service (CRS) accommodation and radio sites. To provide contract details for all of these properties would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the MCA currently has two main contracts relating to accommodation and facilities management for its properties in Scotland. One is with the property advisors James Barr Ltd, which provides specialist advice on building management and facilities management; and the other is with Carillion Planned Maintenance for mechanical and electrical plant maintenance and support.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the size is of the areas covered by the coastguard centre at *(a)* Shetland, *(b)* Stornoway, *(c)* Aberdeen, *(d)* Clyde and *(e)* Forth. [62144]

Mike Penning: The area of coverage in terms of square nautical miles of sea for each co-ordination centre is:

	Area of coverage (nm^2)
(a) Shetland	37,430
(b) Stornoway	172,560
(c) Aberdeen	20,541
(d) Clyde	84,500
(e) Forth	2,860

Motorways: Carbon Emissions

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential change in carbon emissions attributable to any increase in the national speed limit on a motorway from 70 to 80 miles per hour. [61637]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* We are undertaking some preliminary analysis of the possible effects of changing the national motorway speed limit. This includes the potential change in carbon emissions.

Olympic Games 2012: Taxis

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on access for London taxis to designated traffic lanes during the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [60247]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* Transport for London (TfL), which leads on the implementation of the Olympic Route Network (ORN), has received a number of representations on this matter since consultation began on the designation of the ORN in 2008.

The ORN is a requirement of the host nation contract between London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is considered vital to ensure that athletes, technical officials, accredited media and others working at the Games can get to their events on time. It is being designed and implemented to seek to minimise disruption in London. For example, temporary Games Lanes for official Games vehicles, and blue-light emergency vehicles on call will only be used on the busiest parts of the ORN—less than 1% of London's roads—and where there is sufficient space for other traffic.

TfL has engaged extensively with the taxi and private hire trades in the development of the ORN plans, and is currently working on information for drivers to help them make the most of the opportunities the Games offer.

Public Transport: Vandalism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of vandalism of public transport vehicles in each of the last five years. [55319]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested. These services are provided by a large number of different operators and costs from vandalism form part of the operating costs and will fall to individual operators. There is therefore no direct cost to the public purse.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Final Independent Report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether he plans to publish a revised version of the Delivering a Sustainable Railway White Paper. [61227]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport's Business Plan sets out its commitment to publish a detailed policy statement on rail by the end of November 2011.

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department uses a model ticketing and settlement agreement in its negotiations with train operating companies on rail passenger franchise contracts. [R] [61450]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA) is the agreement between train operating companies (TOCs) that sets out how fares are created, honoured, and sold, and how revenue is settled. The TSA preserves through ticketing and ticket inter-availability, and provides the mechanism by which ticket retailing is regulated.

Each TOC's franchise agreement with the Secretary of State, and Passenger Licence granted by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), requires it to be a party to and comply with the TSA.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each train operating company holding a franchise has received from the public purse in *(a)* subsidy and *(b)* other funding since May 2010. [61453]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The Department for Transport publishes all payments to train operating companies on its website as part of the Government commitment to transparency across its operations. Details are available on the Departments website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/transparency

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to reform the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation to mitigate the effects on the sustainable biodiesel industry of fluctuations in certificate prices. [62529]

Norman Baker: As part of the Government's measures to address climate change, the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) ensures a growing proportion of UK road transport fuels are from sustainable renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance. The value of individual Renewable Transport Fuel Certificates (RTFCs) is determined by the market and depends upon the relative cost of supplying biofuel and fossil fuels. RTFCs for the obligation period 2010-11 have sold at 15p to 24p at auction. We continue to monitor the market value of RTFCs and consider that to date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK.

We are currently analysing responses to proposals to amend the RTFO to implement the Renewable Energy Directive. These proposals include providing additional support for biofuels derived from waste, such as biodiesel made from used cooking oil, and advanced biofuel, so long as it meets certain mandatory standards for sustainability. This would be achieved through awarding two RTFCs to each litre of such fuel supplied.

Crop-based biofuels will continue to get one RTFC per litre, as long as they meet the mandatory sustainability standard. So the proposed change will give twice the financial support to biofuels derived from waste, and advanced biofuel, as conventional biofuels, and no support to biofuels that do not meet required sustainability standards.

Rescue Services: VAT

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made in implementing a VAT exemption for mountain rescue. [62421]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my response to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 876-77W.

Roads: Bridges

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made on the A194/A184 Whitemare Pool Bridge improvement project. [62377]

Mike Penning: Following the serious delays to these essential maintenance works, the traffic restrictions on the A184 will be lifted on 12 July, with the remainder of the works on site completed by 10 August 2011.

Salvage

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Secretary of State's Representatives for Maritime Salvage and Intervention there have been since the creation of the post; and on what date the present representative was appointed. [62500]

Mike Penning: There have been two Secretary of State's representatives (SOSREP) for maritime salvage and intervention, since the creation of the post in 1999. The present SOSREP was appointed on 1 January 2008.

Trade Unions

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any staff of his Department are entitled to work full-time on trade union activities while receiving a departmental salary. [60252]

Norman Baker: Some staff in the Department are entitled to work full-time on trade union activities and I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to update the High Level Output Specification Statement of Public Funds Available process to include those objectives specified in his Department's business plan. [61267]

Mrs Villiers: The High Level Output Specification and the Statement of Funds will reflect the objectives specified in the Department for Transport's business plan.

JUSTICE

Angling: Licensing

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each region were prosecuted for not being in possession of a rod licence in each of

the last five financial years; what the total monetary value of fines issued in respect of such prosecutions was in each year; and how much was recovered in payment of fines in each year. [61471]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the total number of prosecutions, fines given, and total costs awarded for rod licence evasion in the past five financial years. The courts award costs to the Environment Agency. The fines given go to the Treasury.

Number

Region	*Prosecutions*	*Fines*	*Costs (£)*
Anglian	2,607	214,048	182,271
North East	3,122	250,856	236,358
North West	2,618	215,570	198,514
Midlands	2,334	197,953	177,089
Thames	4,755	422,629	340,720
South West	994	89,589	70,776
Wales	1,122	104,050	82,384
Southern	1,771	161,539	126,373
Total	19,323	1,656,234	1,414,485

Total prosecutions by region for the last five years

Number

Region	*Prosecutions*	*Fines*	*Costs (£)*
Anglian	2,607	214,048	182,271
North East	3,122	250,856	236,358
North West	2,618	215,570	198,514
Midlands	2,334	197,953	177,089
Thames	4,755	422,629	340,720
South West	994	89,589	70,776
Wales	1,122	104,050	82,384
Southern	1,771	161,539	126,373
Total	19,323	1,656,234	1,414,485

Total prosecutions by region, from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2010 inclusive

Region (Prosecutions)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Anglian	700	681	484	465	277	2,607
North East	596	693	515	739	579	3,122
North West	506	691	564	426	431	2,618
Midlands	383	558	596	374	423	2,334
Thames	1,011	1,157	1,186	857	544	4,755
South West	320	297	219	117	41	994
Wales	265	233	273	246	105	1,122
Southern	475	459	344	272	221	1,771
Total	4,256	4,769	4,181	3,496	2,621	19,323

Region (Fines)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-44*	*Total*
Anglian	47,247	50,783	44,225	43,968	27,825	214,048
North East	31,085	40,366	44,959	74,887	59,559	250,856
North West	32,063	46,155	49,599	43,029	44,724	215,570
Midlands	26,059	40,976	47,807	36,904	46,207	197,953
Thames	76,805	86,945	113,088	87,858	57,933	422,629
South West	25,184	24,267	21,169	15,534	3,435	89,589
Wales	22,280	22,004	26,519	23,808	9,439	104,050
Southern	37,781	35,774	35,693	28,262	24,029	161,539
Total	298,504	347,270	383,059	354,250	273,151	1,656,234

Region (Costs)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Anglian	42,429	43,049	34,215	33,061	29,517	182,271
North East	36,126	45,429	34,740	54,563	65,500	236,358
North West	31,611	46,423	40,664	29,794	50,022	198,514
Midlands	24,485	37,333	40,817	26,601	47,853	177,089
Thames	63,615	75,905	81,296	59,779	60,125	340,720
South West	24,675	18,463	15,085	8,165	4,388	70,776
Wales	16,915	16,390	20,309	16,630	12,140	82,384
Southern	29,800	30,125	24,172	19,051	23,225	126,373

Region (Costs)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
Total	269,656	313,117	291,298	247,644	292,770	1,414,485

Convictions

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* sexual assault, *(c)* grievous bodily harm, *(d)* manslaughter, *(e)* attempted murder, *(f)* forgery, *(g)* fraud, *(h)* theft of a motor vehicle, *(i)* theft from a person, *(j)* robbery, *(k)* sexual activity with a child under 16, *(l)* sexual activity with a child under 13, *(m)* sexual assault of a female, *(n)* rape of a female, *(o)* sexual assault of a male, *(p)* rape of a male, *(q)* child abduction, *(r)* abandoning children, *(s)* cruelty or neglect of children, *(t)* wounding or other acts endangering life, *(u)* causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, *(v)* causing death by driving, unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers, *(w)* causing death of a child or vulnerable person, *(x)* causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink and drugs, *(y)* manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, *(z)* causing death by reckless driving, (aa) threat or conspiracy to murder, (bb) perverting the course of justice, (cc) violent disorder, (dd) kidnapping, (ee) blackmail, (ff) intent to supply a controlled drug, (gg) possession of a controlled drug, (hh) criminal damage, (ii) arson, (jj) common assault, (kk) dangerous driving and (ll) firearms there have been in each year since 1997; and what proportion of such convictions followed a guilty plea at the first instance in each such year. [61615]

Mr Blunt: Defendants found guilty at all courts for requested offences in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2010 (latest available), can be viewed in the following tables.

Plea data for specific offences, which are only available centrally for defendants tried in the Crown court, do not identify at which stage of criminal proceedings defendants entered their plea.

Defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 1997 to 2010

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Burglary	31,703	30,769	29,260	26,222	24,802	26,691	25,726
Grievous bodily harm[3]	6,126	6,397	6,017	5,800	5,803	6,156	5,997
Manslaughter	244	266	234	238	262	299	244
Attempted murder	70	64	70	65	46	65	94
Forgery	7,362	7,102	6,611	5,839	5,923	5,903	6,250
Fraud	14,997	17,200	17,788	16,868	15,892	15,574	15,030
Theft of a motor vehicle	1,713	1,552	1,380	1,079	1,038	1,079	1,094
Theft from a person	5,742	5,495	5,691	5,673	6,008	6,498	6,542
Robbery offences	5,589	5,542	5,626	5,891	6,822	7,711	7,303
Sexual activity with a child under 16	199	225	189	214	214	228	248
Sexual activity with a child under 13[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sexual assault of a female	2,484	2,453	2,411	2,223	2,170	2,219	2,132
Rape of a male	42	43	58	41	50	44	44
Rape of a female	573	630	594	552	517	600	626
Sexual assault on a male	479	440	457	410	347	371	335
Child abduction	40	51	71	50	59	59	82
Abandoning children	1	1	1	—	1	—	1
Cruelty or neglect of children	390	390	469	448	415	444	494
Wounding or other acts endangering life	1,864	1,775	1,622	1,531	1,595	1,699	1,675
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking offences	7	18	7	12	14	10	13
Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing death of a child or vulnerable person[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink and drugs	62	63	46	53	51	66	60
Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility	27	15	22	19	20	24	24
Causing death by reckless driving	205	203	173	193	227	228	233
Threat or conspiracy to murder	503	488	457	428	383	448	543
Perverting the course of justice	1,990	2,288	2,242	2,059	2,222	2,033	1,938
Violent disorder	796	871	785	760	668	886	819
Kidnapping	398	345	377	342	348	387	408
Blackmail	180	194	166	112	110	133	126
Intent to supply a controlled drug	5,405	5,549	5,069	4,607	4,405	4,452	4,834
Possession of a controlled drug	27,577	35,782	36,616	33,845	34,958	38,134	39,633
Criminal damage	33,678	36,055	37,380	36,790	36,044	37,786	39,528
Arson	1,582	1,393	1,380	1,436	1,500	1,493	1,485
Common assault	20,636	24,109	26,405	26,260	26,609	28,947	32,281
Dangerous driving	4,535	4,413	4,008	4,090	4,174	4,915	5,451
Firearms[7]	2,740	2,784	2,302	2,123	2,148	2,177	2,290

Defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 1997 to 2010

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Total	179,539	194,965	195,984	186,273	185,845	197,759	203,583

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[1]	2009[2]	2010
Burglary	24,251	22,951	22,955	23,821	23,882	22,983	23,909
Grievous bodily harm[3]	6,071	5,938	5,891	6,248	6,076	6,465	6,739
Manslaughter	265	260	212	226	248	219	209
Attempted murder	96	66	79	87	93	91	89
Forgery	6,008	5,771	5,073	5,579	5,408	4,297	3,393
Fraud	14,788	14,609	14,636	15,444	15,164	16,742	17,656
Theft of a motor vehicle	992	925	945	952	923	852	812
Theft from a person	6,531	6,289	6,314	6,718	6,563	5,904	6,369
Robbery offences	7,481	7,083	8,105	8,828	8,475	8,645	8,498
Sexual activity with a child under 16	306	522	670	644	722	762	844
Sexual activity with a child under 13[4]	30	123	181	206	205	200	233
Sexual assault of a female	2,252	1,949	1,831	1,871	1,892	1,867	2,194
Rape of a male	49	68	75	82	67	65	91
Rape of a female	693	727	787	790	854	932	967
Sexual assault on a male	356	289	221	232	228	203	222
Child abduction	71	80	81	64	61	55	81
Abandoning children	—	—	2	1	1	2	—
Cruelty or neglect of children	541	482	488	493	586	720	710
Wounding or other acts endangering life	1,897	1,872	1,721	1,913	1,879	1,886	1,905
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking offences	11	22	9	19	4	10	5
Causing death by driving unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers[5]	—	—	—	—	1	11	22
Causing death of a child or vulnerable person[6]	—	—	2	6	6	13	4
Causing death by careless driving under the influence of drink and drugs	62	66	65	67	46	35	41
Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility	22	21	12	21	20	8	13
Causing death by reckless driving	241	255	223	233	221	225	154
Threat or conspiracy to murder	576	600	518	470	438	420	472
Perverting the course of justice	1,959	2,054	2,055	1,855	1,861	1,797	1,871
Violent disorder	921	833	618	684	634	466	631
Kidnapping	397	375	402	396	395	427	371
Blackmail	138	139	177	138	152	176	182
Intent to supply a controlled drug	4,887	5,097	5,062	5,499	6,443	6,349	7,353
Possession of a controlled drug	27,802	27,320	28,040	31,722	38,087	41,342	43,406
Criminal damage	41,719	41,327	41,317	43,070	41,328	39,576	38,547
Arson	1,512	1,486	1,573	1,550	1,573	1,461	1,478
Common assault	38,329	44,745	49,260	52,692	52,319	52,789	55,438
Dangerous driving	5,360	4,695	4,314	4,118	3,534	3,387	3,182
Firearms[7]	2,464	2,421	2,023	2,113	2,050	1,850	1,676
Total	199,078	201,460	205,937	218,852	222,439	223,232	229,767

[1] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[2] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
[3] Grievous bodily harm offences form part of the offence group of malicious wounding offences.
[4] Prior to 2003, it was not possible to separately identify sexual activity with a child under 16 with sexual activity with a child under 13.
[5] Offence introduced by the Road Safety Act 2006.
[6] Offence introduced by the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.
[7] Includes possession, certificate related and miscellaneous firearms offences.

Notes:
1. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
3. Sexual assault includes indecent assault from offences prior to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which introduced a large number of new offences which resulted in changes in the coverage of many of the offence classes shown in this table. As a result many of the figures for 2004 onwards are not comparable with those before.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Coroners: Appeals

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of appealing against a coroner's decision through judicial review in each of the last five years. [62150]

Mr Djanogly: No analysis of the cost of judicial review applications against coroners' decisions has been made by this Department. This is because the Ministry of Justice would not be a party to judicial review proceedings which name the coroner as the defendant.

Costs incurred during judicial review proceedings against a coroner will be usually met by the coroner's local authority and the applicant bringing the proceedings.

Coroners: Dismissal

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what grounds an individual holding the post of HM Coroner can be removed from that office. [61814]

Mr Djanogly: The Constitutional Reform Act 2005 gives the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice joint responsibility for the system for considering and determining complaints about the personal conduct of all judicial office holders in England and Wales including Coroners. The Office for Judicial Complaints supports the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice in this role.

The only ground for the removal of a Coroner is personal misconduct or behaviour. It is not possible to provide a definitive list of offences that would result in removal from office as each case is considered on its own merits. The Lord Chancellor may only exercise his power to remove a Coroner from office with the agreement of the Lord Chief Justice.

Coroners: North-East

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid to HM Coroner for the Cleveland area in remuneration in the last 12 months. [61815]

Mr Djanogly: Coroners are independent judicial office holders who are appointed and paid for by the relevant local authority. The remuneration of the Teesside coroner is a matter for the coroner and his local authority.

Court Cases

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of defendants per case was in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [62239]

Mr Blunt: In 2010, the average number of defendants involved in committed and sent for trial cases completed the Crown court was 1.2 defendants. During the same period, on average, there was 1.01 defendants involved in cases committed for sentence and 1.0 defendant involved in cases appealing against decisions made in the magistrates courts.

Information on the average number of defendants in criminal cases in completed at the magistrates courts can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 2009, information on cases is collected on central systems, but cannot be readily extracted and collated at the present time due to the way the data are held.

Crime and Security Act 2010: Prosecutions

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for a qualifying offence under section 7 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 between *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2009-10. [62200]

Mr Blunt: The available information required to answer this question is currently being collated. I will write to the right hon. Member as soon as it is available. A copy will be placed in the House Library.

Crown Courts

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unrepresented defendants in the Crown court there were between June 2009 and June 2010; and how many there have been since the roll-out of means testing for representation in the Crown court in June 2010. [61666]

Mr Djanogly: Between June 2009 and December 2009, there were 972 unrepresented defendants in the Crown court.

Statistics for 2010 are not available but these will be published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletin "Judicial and court statistics" on 30 June 2011, which will be available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/courts-and-sentencing/judicial-annual.htm

Drugs: Custodial Sentences

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence for drug offences in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [61938]

Mr Blunt: Defendants sentenced to immediate custody for drug offences in Kent police force area, 2006-10 can be viewed in the table.

It is not possible to identify from data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice the number of defendants sentenced for drug offences in Dartford constituency; as court proceedings data are not collated at parliamentary constituency level.

Number of persons sentenced to an immediate custody for drug offences in Kent police force area, 2006-10[1, 2]

Drug offences	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Immediate custody	205	224	315	350	339
Other sentences	403	488	904	947	1,091
Total sentenced	608	712	1,219	1,297	1,430

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 686-87W, on appeals: employment and support allowance, for what reasons it is not possible to identify the number of live employment support appeals in *(a)* Wrexham and *(b)* Wales. [62469]

Mr Djanogly: To ensure the consistency and integrity of data, Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service only provides data based upon published statistics which, in the case of social security and child support (SSCS) appeals, are now published on a regular monthly basis. It is only possible to obtain specific local data on the number of live cases in the system which is consistent with the official statistics when the data run for those statistics is generated. I will therefore arrange for the UK, Wales and Wrexham information as at the end of June to be supplied to the hon. Member when that month's SSCS data are published.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals against decisions on applications for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment and support allowance there have been in each of the last three years. [62470]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of appeals received at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) against decisions on applications for disability living allowance and employment and support allowance in each of the last three years.

	Appeals received	
	Disability living allowance	*Employment and support allowance*
2008-09	70,200	[1]1,300
2009-10	71,700	126,800
2010-11	79,500	197,400

[1] Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008 and replaced incapacity benefit (IB). The first appeals against ESA decisions were not received until January 2009 and this is reflected in the figure above.

In response, HMCTS has significantly increased its capacity and published management information shows that 38% more social security and child support appeals were cleared nationally in April 2011 compared to April 2010 (65% more when compared with April 2009). Further capacity increases are in hand.

Harassment: Custodial Sentence

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of an offence under the terms of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each of the last three years were placed on a perpetrator's programme as part of a community or custodial sentence. [61915]

Mr Blunt: The information would require a manual search of court records at a disproportionate cost, as MOJ do not centrally hold data on persons placed on a perpetrator's programme.

Immigration: Greater Manchester

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many immigration matter starts are allocated in the Greater Manchester access area. [61642]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is responsible for administering the legal aid scheme in England and Wales. Following a tender process between 30 November 2009 and 28 January 2010, the LSC awarded contracts to nine organisations to deliver a total of 2,410 matter starts in asylum services and 2,386 matter starts in immigration services across the Greater Manchester access point.

Legal Aid: Domestic Violence

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of domestic violence his Department uses for the purposes of its White Paper on legal aid reform. [62196]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission does not currently use any particular definition of domestic violence. Funding is not limited just to persons who have suffered actual physical violence. Similarly, we did not include a specific definition of domestic violence in the consultation paper "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" nor in the Government's response to the consultation. Legal aid will remain available for applications for civil remedies for domestic violence under the Family Law Act 1996, and for injunctions to restrain abusive behaviour, as at present. For private family law cases, such as disputes about children or finance following the breakdown of a relationship, legal aid will be available for victims of domestic violence where there is objective evidence of the need for protection. The circumstances that will be accepted as evidence of the need for protection are not restricted to physical violence.

National Offender Management Service: Procurement

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding each division of the National Offender Management Service spent on commissioning and contracting activities in the latest period for which figures are available. [62237]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service central accounting system does not routinely record data in this format. To obtain information requested on costs on commissioning and contracting activities would therefore incur disproportionate cost. [62471]

Prison Sentences

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received immediate custodial sentences for breach of trust offences of theft, false accounting and fraud in each of the last five years.

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to an immediate custody at all courts for offences relating to theft, false accounting and fraud offences in England and Wales from 2006 to 2010, can be viewed in the following table.

Persons sentenced to an immediate custody at all courts for offences of theft, false accounting and fraud, England and Wales, 2006-10[1,2]

Offence	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*[4]	*2010*
Theft	18,041	18,190	19,510	18,603	20,744
False accounting	114	73	61	55	55
Fraud	2,239	2,027	2,228	2,724	2,733

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

[4] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Disciplinary Proceedings

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have lost remission for disciplinary offences in the last 12 months; and how many such prisoners lost remission of *(a)* up to one month, *(b)* one to three months, *(c)* three to six months or *(d)* more than six months. [61397]

Mr Blunt: The latest available Offender Management Caseload Statistics, which may be accessed on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/omcs-annual.htm

show that in 2009 the disciplinary punishment of additional days was imposed on 11,550 occasions. The statistics do not show how many prisoners this figure relates to, since a punishment may be imposed on the same prisoner more than once, whenever he or she is found guilty of a disciplinary offence. The maximum number of additional days that may be imposed for an offence is 42, but prisoners may accumulate additional days for a number of proven offences during their sentence. Statistics on the total number of days that have been imposed on prisoners are not available centrally, and could be obtained only by examining the records of every prisoner who has undergone an adjudication over the last year.

Prisoners: Mental Health

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessor have spent on measures to improve the mental health of prisoners in each year since 1995. [60001]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

We do not have any information for the period prior to 2003 when the Home Office was responsible for the funding of all health care for prisoners.

National health service primary care trusts have been responsible for commissioning offender health services including mental health since 2006. Primary care trusts base their decisions about funding on joint strategic needs assessments. The Department does not collect the total amount spent on mental health services for offenders.

In addition to money spent by NHS primary care trusts the Government have also funded some initiatives centrally including the dangerous and severe personality disorder programme where funding from the NHS and National Offender Management Service currently stands at £69 million. The Government will shortly be responding to the consultation on the offender personality disorder pathway implementation plan.

From 2006 to 2009 over £600,000 was invested to provide prison officers with training and the skills to better understand and support prisoners with mental health problems.

The Government's spending review committed us to taking forward proposals to invest in mental health diversion services at police stations and courts to intervene at an early stage, diverting offenders with mental health problems away from the justice system and into treatment where appropriate. These services will be rolled out nationally over the spending review period, subject to business case approval.

At a joint Health and Criminal justice Programme/Revolving Doors Agency conference in March, I announced a programme of diversion pathfinder sites, supported with a £5 million investment in the coming year:

£3 million investment in 40 adult diversion sites in 2011-12; working with 20 of these diversion pathfinders to help build the business case for diversion; and

£2 million towards up to 60 youth sites for diversion and extending pilots to other areas of the country.

Prisons: Gyms

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on gymnasium and sporting equipment in each prison establishment in each of the last five years. [62546]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service's central accounting system does not hold separate expenditure details on gymnasium or/and sporting equipment. In order to obtain the costs, local records would need to be examined at each establishment. The costs would then need to be extracted, disaggregated and then centrally collated and reviewed. To establish these costs would therefore incur a disproportionate cost.

Representation Orders

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for Representation Orders at the Crown Court have been outstanding after 28 days in 2011 to date. [61395]

Mr Djanogly: Since the implementation of Crown court means testing (completed at the end of June 2010), all applications for legal aid in Crown court cases are processed by the relevant magistrates court except for the following very limited cases;

Proceedings in the Crown court which are referred to in section 12(2)(f) Access to Justice Act 1999 (contempt proceedings) or

An alleged breach of an order of the Crown court, where it appears to the court there is no time to instruct a litigator.

Where an individual is brought before the court in pursuance of a warrant (Bench Warrant) issued under section 81 of the Senior Courts Act 1981

HMCTS does not centrally collate specific data on the time taken to process applications for representation orders where the case is already in Crown court or on the number of applications for representation which have taken more than 28 days.

Squatting

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to launch a consultation on proposals for reform of the law on squatting. [62423]

Mr Blunt: We are aiming to publish the consultation paper before the summer recess.

Trespass: Railways

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* charges and *(c)* convictions for offences related to (i) trespass and (ii) vandalism on the railway system there have been in each of the last 10 years. [62101]

Mr Blunt: It is not possible to identify from data collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice the number of defendants convicted for offences in relation to trespassing and vandalism on the railway system.

The information on arrests and charging are the responsibility of the Home Office and Crown Prosecution Service.

Vandalism: Sentencing

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with the Magistrates' Association on sentencing policy for vandalism, trespass or graffiti-related offences on railway lines. [62043]

Mr Blunt: Ministers have had no discussions with the Magistrates' Association about sentencing for offences on railway lines. There is a wide range of offences which may be applicable to criminal behaviour on railway lines, from minor vandalism to very serious offences such as obstructing lines with intent to endanger passengers. Sentencing is entirely a matter for the courts, taking account of all the circumstances of each case and any relevant sentencing guidelines. There are, for example, magistrates sentencing guidelines on criminal damage, which the courts must follow.

Young Offender Institutions

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which wings within HM Young Offender Institution *(a)* Rochester and *(b)* Portland are to be re-rolled to provide accommodation for prisoners aged over 21 years; and how many places this will create for adult prisoners in each establishment. [61925]

Mr Blunt: Young adults sentenced to detention in a young offender institution (DYOI) are detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) as required by section 98 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000. These are normally self-contained but in some establishments that have a dual designation (designed both as a prison and a YOI) young adults are held alongside adults with which they share the majority of their facilities. Whatever the location, young adults detained in YOIs have separate sleeping accommodation.

At HMP/YOI Portland, Nelson wing has been assigned to hold adult prisoners and will provide around 70 adult places.

At HMP/YOI Rochester, F, G, H and R wings have been assigned to hold adult prisoners and will provide around 300 adult places.

HEALTH

Bed Bugs: Wales

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Government on a potential outbreak of cimex lectularius. [61481]

Anne Milton: The Department has not had any discussions with the Welsh Government on this issue.

Blood Transfusion Services: Wales

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions the NHS blood transfusion service has had with the Welsh Blood Service on the assumption of responsibility by the Welsh Blood Service for collection of blood in the area of Mid and North Wales currently covered by the NHS Blood and Transfusion Service based in Liverpool. [61612]

Anne Milton: The responsibility for blood donation and transfusion in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Government. I understand that no discussions have taken place between NHS Blood and Transplant and the Welsh Blood Service about collecting blood in Mid and North Wales. On 15 June 2011, the Minister for Health and Social Services for Wales said that local health boards, through their collective work on the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee, are continuing their review of the costs and benefits of securing a blood transfusion service for the whole of Wales from Velindre NHS Trust. The outcome of the review is expected in the autumn.

Cancer: Drugs

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much each primary care trust has received from the Cancer Drugs Fund; [62139]

(2) how much was spent from the Cancer Drugs Fund in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [62140]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect this information at primary care trust level. We have made £200 million available to strategic health authorities (SHAs) for the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2011-12.

SHA shares have been calculated using the national weighted capitation formula and these are set out in the following table.

Region	Allocation (£ million)
North East SHA	11.3
North West SHA	29.6
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	21.0
East Midlands SHA	16.9
West Midlands SHA	21.6
East of England SHA	20.6
London SHA	30.5
South East Coast SHA	15.6
South Central SHA	13.7
South West SHA	19.2
Total	200.0

It is for SHA regional clinically led panels to make decisions on the use of the funding.

Information on expenditure from the Cancer Drugs Fund since 1 April 2011 is not yet available.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61712]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cabinet Office has recently commissioned monthly workforce management reports from Departments and their agencies across Whitehall, which include numbers of, and expenditure on, permanent and non-permanent workers. This forms part of the Government's cross-departmental transparency agenda. This information will be made publicly available in due course.

The Department's agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), already publishes its annual resource accounts, which includes workforce information. The MHRA also provides quarterly returns (Quarterly Public Sector Employment Surveys) to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and an annual return to ONS for its Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. The MHRA also publishes, again, as part of the Government's transparency agenda, organograms (organisational structure charts) which include staffing structures, numbers and pay levels.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61676]

Mr Simon Burns: All contracts issued by the Department are subject to terms and conditions of purchase specific to the category of goods and services to be procured.

The terms and conditions cover the obligations of the procuring authority (ie the Department) and the supplier as defined by the Department's own financial instructions, current United Kingdom legislation and, where applicable, European Union legislation. These include:

discrimination and human rights;

health and safety;

corrupt gifts or payments;

intellectual property rights; and

data protection.

In addition:

requirements with a value in excess of £10,000 are subject to the Department's formal tender process; and

requirements with a value in excess of £101,000 are subject to a tender process that is compliant with EU legislation in the form of the Public Contract regulations 2006 ("PCR 2006"), as amended.

Such tenders contain supplier appraisal questions in the form of a pre-qualification questionnaire and/or a formal invitation to tender. The PCR 2006 contains mandatory and discretionary requirements for contracting authorities to exclude organisations from public contracts when they or their Officers have been convicted of certain offences. Other legal and ethical criteria are also included, eg to identify conflicts of interest.

Departmental Redundancies

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61725]

Mr Simon Burns: Government estimates of the costs of the proposals for reform to the Department and the national health service are contained in pages 11-14 of the "co-ordinating document" for the impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill, published alongside the Bill on 19 January 2011. These include figures for the Department's arm's length bodies, which are comprised of its Executive non-departmental public bodies, special health authorities and agencies. The document is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

The document has already been placed in the Library.

The Government will publish a revised impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill in due course, reflecting the changes we propose to make in response to the NHS Future Forum.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was saved through his Department's modernisation process in each month since May 2010; [61483]

(2) if he will publish monthly reports on the savings made under his Department's modernisation process. [61484]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimates of the future savings from our proposals for modernising the national health service—including from a one third reduction in the cost of administration—were set out in an impact assessment published in January 2011. Following the report of the NHS Future Forum and the Government's response, an updated impact assessment will be published in due course. The Department will report regularly on progress towards delivering those savings but we have no plans to publish monthly reports.

While most savings will accrue in the years of this spending review, some elements of modernisation have already delivered savings in 2010-11. In January 2011, we announced savings of £162 million had been made by applying controls over central spending on consultancy, information technology, administration and advertising. Those savings were made available to reinvest in services to support people leaving hospital.

Doctors

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of secondary care doctors working for the NHS undertook no private work in the last financial year for which figures are available. [61573]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. Contractual arrangements are matter for the individual doctor and their employer.

Doctors: Standards

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the General Medical Council on assessing the competence of doctors in their proposed health commissioning role through the revalidation process. [62460]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working in partnership with the General Medical Council to deliver an effective system of revalidation for doctors in England. Annual appraisals will underpin the revalidation process and these appraisals should be based upon the whole of a doctors' practice. For some doctors, this will include an element of commissioning health services.

In addition, under our proposals the NHS Commissioning Board will hold clinical commissioning groups to account for stewardship of national health service resources and the outcomes they achieve.

Drugs: Safety

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the outcome of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency consultation on unlicensed medicines; [61734]

(2) when he expects the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency review of unlicensed medicines to publish its conclusions; [61776]

(3) what progress the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has made in its review of the regulatory arrangements for unlicensed medicines. [61777]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is currently reviewing the United Kingdom's regulatory arrangements for unlicensed medicines established under Article 5 (1) of Directive 2001/83/EC taking account of the informal consultation which took place in 2009 and subsequent engagement with a range of interested parties in 2010 and in March 2011. Work continues on assessing the impact of the possible options for reform with a view to undertaking a public consultation exercise to take place later in 2011 on formal proposals for reform.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' recommendation that foil be exempted from section 9A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; what his policy is on the use of foil as a harm reduction technique among injecting heroin users; and when he expects to reach a decision on the council's recommendation. [61741]

Anne Milton: The issues raised in the Advisory Council's recommendation relate both to the Home Office and more widely to the policy on patient health and harm reduction lead by the Department of Health. Departmental officials are working closely with Home Office officials to ensure that our joint interests are recognised in the Government's response to the recommendation, which will be published soon.

Drugs: Side Effects

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of deaths due to adverse reactions to prescribed drugs in the last three years for which figures are available; [62059]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of treating patients who have had adverse reactions to prescribed treatments in the latest period for which figures are available. [62060]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports of 'suspected' adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including those from prescriptions, over-the-counter or general retail sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports received by the MHRA during the last three years with a fatal outcome.

	Number of reports
2008	1,298
2009	1,190
2010	1,450

It should be noted these data represent all UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports with a fatal outcome received through the Yellow Card Scheme. The data cannot be stratified according to how the medicine was obtained.

The fourth Patient Safety Observatory report estimated that preventable harm from medicines could cost more than £750 million each year in England. This figure includes what is known of litigation costs.

The estimate of cost to the national health service of avoidable harms related to taking prescribed medicines was calculated from the best available evidence of the incidence of side effects and most recent hospital activity and cost data. It excludes costs of harm in the community (where the majority of drugs are prescribed, dispensed

and administered) which did not result in hospital admissions. As such, it is likely to underestimate the scale of the problem.

Addressing the impact of adverse drug reactions on public health is a key concern for the MHRA. A study funded by the MHRA and published in the British Medical Journal on 2 July 2004[1] was conducted in two large hospitals in Merseyside in order to ascertain the current burden of ADRs in the NHS. The study found that of 18,820 patients aged over 16 years admitted to hospital over a six month period, there were 1,225 admissions judged to be related to an ADR, giving a prevalence of 6.5%. Of these 1,225, the ADR was judged to lead directly to the admission in 80% of cases. The median bed stay was eight days, accounting for 4% of the hospital bed capacity. The projected annual cost of such admissions to the NHS was £466 million.

[1] BMJ. 2004 Jul 3;329(7456):15-9 Adverse drug reactions as cause of admission to hospital: prospective analysis of 18,820 patients. Pirmohamed M, James S, Meakin S, Green C, Scott AK, Walley TJ, Farrar K, Park BK, Breckenridge AM. Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GE.

General Practitioners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 76W, on general practitioners, what mechanism his Department has put in place to monitor the capacity of GPs to achieve good clinical care by assessing a patient's history including the symptoms and psychological and social factors; and if he will make a statement. [61665]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary medical services are provided by general practitioners (GPs) under contracts with local primary care trusts, in England, and local health boards, in Wales. Under the terms of these contracts, GPs are required to provide appropriate ongoing treatment and care to their patients taking account of their specific needs. In line with General Medical Council guidance, this should include taking account of psychological and social factors.

It is for local primary care trusts, or local health boards, to monitor the delivery of primary medical services under the contractual arrangements. Any patient who is not happy with the treatment provided by their GP practice can raise a complaint through the national health service complaints procedure.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether his proposals on GP commissioning will result in the employment of more GPs by the NHS in the next five years. [62306]

Mr Simon Burns: We have proposed that it would be a requirement for every general practitioner (GP) practice to be part of a clinical commissioning group and to contribute to its goals. However, our proposed model will mean that not all GPs have to be actively involved in every aspect of commissioning. Their predominant focus will continue to be on providing high quality primary care to their patients. It is likely to be a smaller group of GPs and clinicians who would lead a clinical commissioning group and play an active role in the clinical design of local services.

Health Services: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people completed alcohol treatments provided by the NHS in each region in the last 12 months; how much was spent on such treatment in each region in that period; and what criteria his Department uses to determine whether a course of alcohol treatment has been completed. [61798]

Anne Milton: The number of people completing alcohol treatments in each region of England is provided in the following table. The amount of money spent on treatment by each region of England is not collected centrally. Successful completion is a clinical decision that the client no longer requires structured alcohol treatment interventions, because either they are abstinent from alcohol, or any alcohol use is judged by the clinician not to be problematic or not to require treatment.

Successful completions, 2009-10

Region	*Number*
London	4,391
North East	1,947
South East	4,022
Eastern	3,492
West Midlands	2,870
South West	2,585
East Midlands	2,485
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,878
North West	5,810
Missing region code	53
Total	30,533

Notes:
1. The National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System figures provided are for 2009-10, the most recent period in which independently verified national statistics are available.
2. Figures relate to alcohol treatment provided by national health service and voluntary and independent sector providers.

Health Services: Drugs

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people completed drug treatments provided by the NHS in each region in the last 12 months; how much was spent on such treatment in each region in that period; and what criteria his Department uses to determine whether a course of drug treatment has been completed. [61799]

Anne Milton: The number of adults who completed drug treatment in each English region in 2009-10 is set out in the following table.

Region	*Number of successful completions 2009-10*
East Midlands	1,676
East of England	2,116
London	4,941
North East	1,396
North West	4,600
South East	2,762
South West	1,996

Region	Number of successful completions 2009-10
West Midlands	2,279
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,914
Total	23,680

Figures provided here are for 2009-10, the most recent period in which independently verified national statistics are available.

£

Region	Central funding: Pooled treatment budget 2010-11	Local funding: Mainstream funding 2010-11
East Midlands	27,234,000	12,030,000
East of England	27,113,000	18,592,000
London	76,934,000	46,966,000
North East	24,145,000	12,972,000
North West	65,095,000	33,244,000
South East	39,471,000	26,675,000
South West	32,531,000	25,952,000
West Midlands	41,377,000	19,893,000
Yorkshire and Humberside	47,401,000	19,933,000
Total	381,301,000	216,258,000

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

These figures represent drug treatment commissioned by the NHS from NHS and independent sector providers.

Successful completion is a clinical decision that the client no longer requires structured drug treatment interventions (including any prescription of substitute drugs), because they are abstinent from the drug for which they were treated, not using heroin (or other opioids) or crack cocaine, and any other drug use (either illicit or licit) is judged by the clinician not to be problematic or to require treatment.

Health Services: Hearing Impairment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department provides to deaf and hard of hearing people for translation services during hospital appointments. [61432]

Paul Burstow: National health service organisations must assure themselves that they have complied with the Equality Act 2010. This includes advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic, including a disability such as hearing loss, and those who do not. Advancing equality involves, for example, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

It would be for local NHS organisations to make appropriate translation services available during hospital appointments. However, the NHS Equality and Diversity Council chaired by Sir David Nicholson, NHS chief executive, has a strategic role to support the NHS to deliver better outcomes for patients, comply with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure services and work places are personal, fair and diverse with equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

Health Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on patient safety of reductions in services being implemented by Warrington and Halton NHS trust. [62349]

Mr Simon Burns: No assessment has been made by the Department. It is for the national health service locally to ensure local health services offer the best quality care for patients, including patient safety.

The Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has said it is working to identify potential efficiencies and savings, through productivity improvements, use of technology, efficient use of facilities such as operating theatres and more effective and efficient staff planning.

We are supporting the NHS to meet the efficiency challenge by focusing on areas where it is possible to simultaneously increase quality and productivity. In areas where the NHS has requested support, the Department has developed national workstreams to aid the service to meet this challenge.

Liver Diseases

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who will be diagnosed with *(a)* liver disease and *(b)* hepatitis C in (i) 2015, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2025; and if he will make a statement. [61560]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made estimates of future numbers of individuals with liver disease in 2015, 2020 and 2025.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) published estimates of the number of individuals with hepatitis C related liver disease in 2015 in "Hepatitis C in the UK: The Health Protection Agency Annual Report 2009" (December 2009), a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The HPA is due to publish updated estimates, including for 2020, on World Hepatitis Day (28 July 2011).

Medical Equipment

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS takes to reclaim assistance equipment loaned to patients on discharge from hospital and out-patient clinics at the end of its use; which NHS trusts *(a)* reclaim and *(b)* reissue equipment; and what the cost to the NHS was of issuing such equipment in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [61419]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to monitor and arrange for the recovery of assistance equipment, where this is safe and cost-effective.

Information on the expenditure, reclaims and reissuing of assistance equipment by the NHS is not held centrally as it is Government policy to reduce burdens on local councils and primary care trusts who would be the bodies responsible for collecting these data.

Medicine: Education

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with representatives of universities on the teaching of skills that medical students will need to deliver his proposed health commissioning responsibilities. [62463]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of undergraduate medical education is the responsibility of the General Medical Council (GMC). There is no national curriculum for medical schools. Each medical school is responsible for developing its own curriculum, subject to meeting the requirements of the GMC. The GMC is committed to ensuring that doctors are equipped with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to meet all the demands which will be placed on them in practice.

Mental Health Services

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compliance of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on access to psychotherapy services with his policy on NHS access. [61607]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body and does not make recommendations based on Government policy, but on evidence. NICE does not produce guidelines on access to psychotherapy services. Guidelines are produced on a range of conditions for which certain types of psychotherapy may be appropriate, and they recommend such treatments according to the evidence.

However, should a patient be referred to a consultant-led psychotherapy service, the NHS constitution maximum waiting times rights would apply.

NHS: Disciplinary Proceedings

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of providing staffing cover for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses suspended pending disciplinary investigation or action in each year between 2000 and 2010. [61905]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost for providing staffing cover for doctors and nurses suspended pending disciplinary investigation or action in each year between 2000 and 2010 is not available. As national health service trusts, foundation trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities are independent employers in their own right they have the responsibility for all employment decisions about their staff and this includes suspension.

We do however have information from the National Clinical Assessment Service (NCAS) a national service that supports local health care managers to understand, manage and prevent performance concerns with practitioners (doctors, dentists, pharmacists). They provide general advice on performance management and good practice. NCAS does not collect information on nurses.

NCAS has been monitoring numbers of exclusion and suspension episodes since 2005. NCAS has provided such information as is available in the following table:

Use of exclusion and suspension from work among for doctors only in England

	H&C exclusions	*GP suspensions*	*All new episodes*
2005-06	90	50	140
2006-07	74	55	129
2007-08	101	68	169
2008-09	111	71	182
2009-10	135	76	211
2010-11 (April to September)	64	41	105

Note:
In the NHS, primary care organisations 'suspend' general practitioner doctors and dentists (GPs) while employed hospital and community (H&C) practitioners are 'excluded'. Both measures mean that practitioners are separated from their work.
Source:
National Clinical Assessment Service

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that independent contractors to primary care trusts are remunerated according to the terms of their contract under his proposals for reorganisation of the NHS; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the NHS complies with Government guidance on prompt payment to suppliers. [61554]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the preparation for the new national health service landscape, the Department is taking forward a workstream to ensure that the contractual obligations of primary care trusts are taken into full consideration in the development of the new health bodies.

As set out in the Better Payment Practice Code for NHS trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, the Government recognise the importance of paying suppliers promptly and in line with contractual requirements, and this will continue to be the case under our proposals for modernising the NHS.

North West Strategic Health Authority

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the notes and minutes of *(a)* his meeting with NHS North West on 15 February 2011 and *(b)* meetings held by the Managing Director of Provider Development and the Director of Provider Delivery for the North West to discuss plans for trusts to achieve foundation status. [62350]

Mr Simon Burns: A copy of the note from the meeting with NHS North West on 15 February 2011 has been placed in the Library. Copies of the notes of the meetings held by the Managing Director of Provider Development and the Director of Provider Delivery for the North West will be placed in the Library once the tripartite formal agreements have been signed for the remaining NHS trusts in the region. To release these documents ahead of these agreements being signed could prejudice the decisions and plans currently being finalised.

Out-patients: Attendances

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 443W, on out-patients: attendances, for how long the measures to reduce non-attendance rates for hospital appointments specified in the answer have been in place; and what the change has been in the proportion of patients not attending during the period such measures have been in operation. [62531]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information on local measures to reduce non-attendance rates for hospital appointments.

There is no standard for preventing missed appointments however national health service organisations will wish to minimise missed appointments, to make best use of staff time and NHS resources.

Data on missed appointments have been collected since 1996-97 and missed appointments as a proportion of activity is shown in the following table:

	Quarter	*Total out-patient appointments*	*Total DNA*	*DNA rate (percentage)*
1996-97	—	46,380,294	5,507,525	11.9
1997-98	—	47,264,698	5,629,429	11.9
1998-99	—	47,803,368	5,648,971	11.8
1999-2000	—	48,923,209	5,882,510	12.0
2000-01	—	49,524,159	5,954,819	12.0
2001-02	Q1	12,131,302	1,447,988	11.9
2001-02	Q2	12,269,663	1,497,897	12.2
2001-02	Q3	12,508,694	1,482,281	11.9
2001-02	Q4	12,670,166	1,476,681	11.7
2002-03	Q1	12,144,267	1,404,383	11.6
2002-03	Q2	12,225,098	1,439,395	11.8
2002-03	Q3	12,402,669	1,445,051	11.7
2002-03	Q4	12,757,890	1,476,270	11.6
2003-04	Q1	12,448,677	1,429,212	11.5
2003-04	Q2	12,744,320	1,498,702	11.8
2003-04	Q3	12,661,822	1,468,101	11.6
2003-04	Q4	13,141,946	1,481,138	11.3
2004-05	Q1	12,507,436	1,414,819	11.3
2004-05	Q2	12,802,583	1,473,179	11.5
2004-05	Q3	12,667,798	1,405,808	11.1
2004-05	Q4	12,498,850	1,415,260	11.3
2005-06	Q1	12,627,177	1,389,597	11.0
2005-06	Q2	12,616,340	1,421,933	11.3
2005-06	Q3	12,472,455	1,366,227	11.0
2005-06	Q4	13,102,006	1,419,108	10.8
2006-07	Q1	12,490,449	1,357,995	10.9
2006-07	Q2	12,527,887	1,388,963	11.1
2006-07	Q3	12,294,692	1,310,587	10.7
2006-07	Q4	12,833,162	1,378,590	10.7
2007-08	Q1	12,454,245	1,326,439	10.7
2007-08	Q2	12,735,549	1,356,302	10.6
2007-08	Q3	12,823,463	1,373,064	10.7
2007-08	Q4	13,110,018	1,364,777	10.4
2008-09	Q1	13,416,666	1,406,894	10.5
2008-09	Q2	13,640,626	1,453,738	10.7
2008-09	Q3	13,619,779	1,448,204	10.6
2008-09	Q4	13,840,455	1,495,402	10.8
2009-10	Q1	13,816,089	1,397,918	10.1
2009-10	Q2	14,195,211	1,479,746	10.4
2009-10	Q3	14,160,090	1,454,654	10.3
2009-10	Q4	14,423,638	1,523,165	10.6
2010-11	Q1	14,136,380	1,408,536	10.0
2010-11	Q2	14,575,542	1,449,008	9.9
2010-11	Q3	13,979,143	1,453,974	10.4
2010-11	Q4	14,519,753	1,408,928	9.7

Note:
DNA = Did not attend.
Source:
Department of Health; Quarterly Activity Return

Perinatal Mortality: Research

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding allocated by his Department for research into stillbirth causes and prevention was spent on research on the role of the placenta in stillbirth in the last 10 years; what research projects were carried out; and at which institutions; [61425]

(2) how much funding allocated by his Department for research into stillbirth was spent on research on *(a)* understanding unexplained stillbirths and *(b)* growth restriction in the last 10 years; what research projects were carried out in each case; and at which institutions; [61426]

(3) how much his Department has spent on each research project on stillbirth causes and prevention which it has sponsored in the last 10 years; and which institutions carried out such research. [61429]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and Policy Research Programme (PRP) fund a range of research relating to stillbirth causes, risk factors and prevention.

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme is currently funding a £6.0 million trial of an intelligent system to support decision making in the management of labour using the cardiotocogram. The study started in 2009 and is led by University College London. It will test whether an intelligent computer program can help midwives and doctors improve the care they give in response to abnormalities of the baby's heart rate and whether this will lead to fewer babies being harmed because of a lack of oxygen.

The HTA programme is also funding a £1.4 million trial of nicotine replacement therapy in pregnancy led by the University of Nottingham, and a £1.2 million trial of physical activity as an aid to smoking cessation during pregnancy led by St. George's, University of London.

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded a £1.1 million NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research on improving pregnancy outcome in obese women.

The NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre has an ongoing programme of research on women's health. A major focus of this research is understanding the determinants of stillbirth risk. The researchers are building on basic science studies in oxidative stress, placental transport, genomic imprinting, maternal-fetal immune reactions and application of genomic technology in order to develop an integrated method of screening pregnant women. This will both determine their risk of adverse perinatal outcomes and identify novel genetic and molecular markers for adverse perinatal outcomes.

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (CCF) can be found on the CCF website at:

www.ccf.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/FundedProgrammes.aspx

Details of projects funded through programmes managed by the NIHR Evaluation, Trials and Studies Centre (NETSCC) can be found on the NETSCC website at:

www.netscc.ac.uk/

Details of studies hosted by the NIHR Clinical Research Network can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Details of research funded by the PRP are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/Policyresearchprogramme/index.htm

Prior to the establishment of the NIHR in April 2006, the main part of the Department's total health research expenditure was devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. From April 2006 to March 2009, transitional research funding was allocated to these organisations at reducing levels. Records of individual NHS supported research projects collected up to September 2007 are available on the archived national research register (NRR) at:

www.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Psychotherapy

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the methodologies used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the formulation of its guidelines on psychotherapy. [61608]

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the consultation of professional organisations in the field of psychotherapy by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its guidelines on psychotherapy; and if he will make a statement; [62023]

(2) what discussions he has had with professionals in the fields of psychotherapy and counselling on the formulation by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of its guidelines on psychotherapy; and if he will make a statement. [62094]

Paul Burstow: As an independent body, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is responsible for developing and reviewing its own processes and methods for the development of guidance. We have not had any discussions with professionals in the fields of psychotherapy and counselling on this issue.

Since 1 June 2011, the Department has so far received around 25 representations, including the hon. Members' questions, on NICE guidance which addresses the use of psychotherapy.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to section 6.12 of his Department's document, "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer," whether this funding can be used for the acquisition of new radiotherapy equipment by hospitals. [61353]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million in additional funding over the next four years.

Commissioners can use this funding to purchase additional radiotherapy services from providers through locally negotiated tariffs or other payment mechanisms. Providers may use this income to purchase additional radiotherapy equipment to meet the increased demand.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that any stereotactic body radiation therapy commissioning consortium established as a result of the recommendations of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Implementation Group's report on stereotactic body radiation therapy contains patient representatives; [61422]

(2) what consideration the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Implementation Group gave to including in its report on stereotactic body radiation therapy an assessment of the most recent technological advances in radiotherapy equipment for the treatment of cancer tumours that move during irradiation; and if he will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to assess the potential use of such technologies; [61428]

(3) for what reason the report of the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group Implementation Group did not set a tariff for the treatment of lung cancer by stereotactic body radiation therapy. [61430]

Paul Burstow: The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) report, "Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011", which has been made available on the National Cancer Action Team website, made a comprehensive assessment of the technology capable of delivering SBRT. A copy of the NRIG report has been placed in the Library.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) can now use the report to identify whether there are any indications for SBRT that would be appropriate for them to evaluate further via the Medical Technologies Advisory Committee or other programmes at NICE.

The assessment undertaken in the report included consideration of whether the technology could deliver radiotherapy that takes account of the movement of tumours during treatment (intra- and inter-fraction motion management). It was not within the scope of the group tasked with producing the report to set a tariff for the treatment of lung cancer with SBRT. However, the report does recommend the development of a tariff for SBRT, and, in our new cancer strategy, we have said we will investigate the potential development of a range of tariffs to incentivise high quality, cost-effective services, including the newest radiotherapy techniques.

SBRT is commissioned as a specialised service by regional Specialised Commissioning Groups and as informed by the Specialised Services National Definitions Set. Our intention, subject to parliamentary approval, is that in the future services such as SBRT for people with rare and complex cancers should be directly commissioned by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHS CB).

The Government's response to the Future's Forum report re-confirmed and strengthened 'no decision about me without me' as a principle that will be central to how the new organisations operate. A Specialised Services Transitional Oversight Group has been formed, supported by a Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group, to make sure that public and patient voice informs the proposed NHS CB's plans for commissioning Specialised Services.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

State Retirement Pensions: Age

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on changes to the state pension age for *(a)* men and *(b)* women; and if she will make a statement. [61638]

Lynne Featherstone: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

As the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chingford and Woodford Green (Mr Duncan Smith), said during the debate on the Second Reading of the Pensions Bill on 20 June 2011, the Government are committed to the state pensions age being equalised in 2018 and rising to 66 by 2020. However, as he also said:

"I recognise the need to implement the change fairly and manage the transition smoothly. I hear the specific concern about a relatively small number of women, and I have said that I will consider it. I say to my colleagues that I am willing to work to get the transition right, and we will".

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of armed forces personnel serving on operations in Afghanistan are members of the Territorial Army. [60599]

Nick Harvey: As at 31 May 2011 approximately 3% of UK armed forces personnel identified as deployed on overseas operations in Afghanistan were members of the Territorial Army.

The precise figure will vary on a daily basis due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, visits and the roulement of forces.

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to *(a)* encourage local authorities to extend the exemption from council tax for members of the armed forces on operational duty and *(b)* increase the council tax rebate provided by his Department. [60598]

Mr Robathan: Council tax for properties other than service accommodation is a local authority matter. However, we encourage local authorities to give due discretion where possible and to assist members of the armed forces deployed on operations overseas.

The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Somerset (Dr Fox), announced on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 25-27, that we will increase the rate of council tax relief, provided by the Ministry of Defence, for military personnel serving on operations overseas, from 25% to 50%.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take a decision on the future procurement of a second tranche of the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle Foxhound. [62152]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's wider requirement for Foxhound is currently under consideration. A decision on the second tranche will be made in due course and announced to the House in the usual way.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are deployed on the ground in territory controlled by the Libyan Transitional National Council. [61482]

Nick Harvey: There are fewer than 20 members of the UK armed forces temporarily based in Benghazi, as the Defence advisory team to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office diplomatic mission and the mentoring team in support of the National Transitional Council.

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the UK nuclear deterrent on the level of nuclear proliferation; and what steps he is taking to discourage and reduce nuclear proliferation. [61391]

Nick Harvey: There is no evidence to suggest that the UK nuclear deterrent has any bearing on the pursuit of nuclear weapons by those who currently seek to develop them. The UK maintains a minimum credible deterrent and is committed to working towards the long term goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty remains the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, and the primary basis for our efforts to tackle proliferation. We support multilateral efforts to reduce the threat of proliferation such as through the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Suppliers Group, by promoting high standards for sensitive transfers of materials and technology and engaging with key partners on a bilateral basis. We remain determined to work with the international community to control proliferation, to build trust and confidence between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, and to take tangible steps towards a safer and more stable world where countries with nuclear weapons ultimately feel able to relinquish them. We strongly believe that sustainable global disarmament can be achieved only through a multilateral process.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the use of UK development aid by the Government of Bangladesh. [61649]

Mr Duncan: I have just returned from a visit to Bangladesh, where I met the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and a number of her Ministers. The Government of Bangladesh strongly welcomed the UK's continued and growing support to achieving development results in Bangladesh. The Prime Minister particularly welcomed the focus on social services and improving the status of women. Specific representations from the Government included discussion of literacy rates and providing basic health services, disaster management, climate change adaptation and the Food Security Country Investment Plan.

Conflict Prevention

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to publish its Building Stability Overseas strategy. [62149]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence are working together on the coalition Government's Building Stability Overseas strategy. The new strategy will be published before the Houses rise for the coming summer recess.

Developing Countries: Biofuels

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of biofuel production on developing countries; and if he will make a statement. [61735]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development recognises the need for the UK and developing countries to balance the competing demands on land for fuel and food. We also recognise the need to ensure that bio-energy production does not jeopardise food security of poor people in developing countries.

DFID encourages the development of biofuels in consumer and producer countries which is compatible with a broader development agenda. Together with other Government Departments, DFID has been successful in ensuring that UK and EC policy takes into account the impact (positive and negative) of biofuels on developing countries.

Developing Countries: Education

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing to assist in the achievement of the millennium development goal in respect of universal access to education for all children in each of the next four financial years. [61593]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to supporting access to basic services in the developing world, and education—particularly for girls—is a critical part of this. Earlier this year, the Department for International Development reviewed its bilateral and multilateral aid programmes, examining the impact and effectiveness of its programmes. The results have informed our future education policy to ensure that we help as many children as possible into a quality education. By 2014 we will be supporting at least 11 million children in school (9 million in primary and 2 million in secondary).

Detailed information on education expenditure by country programme over the comprehensive spending review period is set out in operational plans for each DFID country office. These are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Additional allocations will also be made through multilateral channels contingent on sustained performance and results over the period.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made at the *(a)* G20 and *(b)* UN on the future of the millennium development goal in respect of universal access to education for all children. [61594]

Mr O'Brien: My Department is in regular dialogue with all key international organisations to galvanize activity towards the millennium development goal (MDG) of universal primary education. My Department is involved with the G20 Development Working Group, which is committed to improving the levels of skills development in low income countries. We are also involved in various United Nations bodies and use these to push for progress on the education MDGs when appropriate.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to his UN counterparts on the number of frontline nurses, midwives and doctors employed in developing nations. [61599]

Mr O'Brien: The UK fully recognises the central importance of health workers in accelerating progress towards our health goals. The UK is a strong supporter of the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women and Children, launched at the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2010, which sets out the need for between 2.5 and 3.5 million additional health workers. This commitment to health workers is reflected in DFID's own corporate performance framework and operational plans.

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed the importance of health workers in a speech at the "Every Woman Every Child" event to launch the Global Strategy, which took place during the UN General Assembly in 2010. DFID Ministers and officials will continue to raise the issue with their UN counterparts in the appropriate fora.

Developing Countries: Vaccination

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department plans to contribute to measures to increase the numbers of children in developing countries vaccinated or immunised against disease in each of the next four financial years. [61600]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Over the next five years the British taxpayers will vaccinate a child in the poorest countries every two seconds and save a child's life every two minutes. Total UK support to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI) over the next four years is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2011-12	214
2012-13	302
2013-14	365
2014-15	336

UK support will help GAVI vaccinate over 55 million children over 2011-14. Our full support up to 2015 will vaccinate over 80 million children and save more than 1.3 million lives in the world's poorest countries.

DFID has also committed £40 million in 2011-12 and up to the same amount in 2012-13 to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and is contributing to improving children's access to lifesaving immunisations through our work with individual countries, where we have programmes to strengthen the capacity of countries' own health systems to provide vital services including childhood immunisation.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what priorities his Department has set in respect of Puntland. [61373]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: For the period covering 2011-15, DFID's support to Puntland will focus on programmes in health, governance and security, employment generation and humanitarian assistance. For example, this assistance will increase access to skilled birth attendance for an additional 10,000 women in Puntland, support the development of the fisheries sector contributing to the creation of long-term jobs, and increase court use by 50% with over a fifth of Puntland's judges receiving professional training.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to what extent resilience is to be integrated into his Department's operational plan for Somalia. [61427]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department is currently supporting pastoralists and farmers to strengthen their resilience through emergency livelihood protection activities.

Following publication of the Department's Operational Plan for Somalia, officials are appraising measures to increase the resilience of households and communities through more predictable funding. This will encourage partners to plan their work over a longer term, in line with Government's response to the recent Humanitarian Emergency Response Review.

Somalia: Water

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department plans to spend on water and sanitation in Somalia in 2011-12. [61372]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department is providing emergency water and sanitation services to pastoralists and farmers in 2011-12 through humanitarian agencies such as Oxfam, the United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund for Somalia and International Committee of the Red Cross. These activities are part of a wider package of assistance which responds to urgent needs.

We aim to provide 450,000 people with clean water, sanitation and hygiene services in 2011-12. We do not yet have a firm figure for spend. Our total humanitarian budget for Somalia for 2011-12 is currently £19 million.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects to announce the outcome of his Department's review of the effects of air passenger duty on Northern Ireland; [62212]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of air passenger duty on the competitiveness of airports in Northern Ireland. [62510]

Justine Greening: The Government undertook a consultation on air passenger duty from 23 March to 17 June 2011. The Government will consider the views and evidence submitted by interested parties and will publish a summary of responses in the autumn.

Armed Conflict: Libya

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the reserve provided for the purposes of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 remains. [61565]

Danny Alexander: The Treasury has been working with MOD to refine the estimate of net additional military costs for operations associated with the UK commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 1973. MOD Ministers provided an updated estimate of the net additional costs of the operation to the House on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS.

All net additional costs of military operations in Libya will be fully met from the reserve and there is therefore no fixed budget. Costs should however be modest compared to other operations such as Afghanistan.

Banks: Finance

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to secure *(a)* EU and *(b)* G20 agreement on (i) the baseline proportion of equity capital that banks should hold relative to their assets, (ii) separation between retail banking and wholesale and investment banking and (iii) the bank levy rate. [59378]

Mr Hoban: The information is as follows:

Proportion of equity capital relative to assets

The G20 leaders endorsed the Basel Committee's recommendations for reforms to the prudential and liquidity frameworks at the November 2010 meeting in Seoul. The Government are expecting European Commission proposals on the implementation of the Basel reforms through further amendments to the capital requirements directive (CRD) later this year. The Government have had several discussions with the European Commission and member states on this issue.

Banking subsidiarisation

The Financial Stability Board's (FSB) current work programme is focused on improving the loss absorbency and resolvability of global systemically important banks.

This work is vitally important to ensuring long-term financial stability and economic growth. We are engaging actively on this project and working closely with the FSA, bank and international partners as the debate intensifies in the run up to the Cannes G20 summit in November.

The Independent Commission on Banking (ICB) published its interim report in April. The Government expect ICB's findings to contribute to the international debate and they look forward to the publication of the final report in September.

Bank levy

Bank levies have been discussed regularly at ECOFIN since May 2010. However, the Government believe it is right that the detailed design of such levies should be determined by member states to reflect different domestic circumstances and tax systems.

Banks: Regulation

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Independent Commission on Banking on the proposals contained in its interim report, Consultation on Reform Options, prior to 15 June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [62220]

Mr Hoban: The Government set up the Independent Commission on Banking to enable an open, public dialogue about the complex issues of banking reform and the Commission has led an open debate on these issues. The Government are continuing to actively engage with the Commission and other interested parties ahead of the publication of its final report.

I made a statement to the House on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 959-61, on regulatory and banking reform. The Government will now await the Commission's complete report on 12 September before making any final decisions.

Budgets

Mr Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many interim Government budgets are set by reference to a proportion of gross national income. [61105]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Government have not set any Department's budget solely by reference to gross national income (GNI). However, the Government did set out plans in the 2010 spending review to increase official development assistance (ODA) spending to 0.7% of GNI from 2013, in line with the UK's international commitments to help the very poorest in the world. ODA spending is divided between a number of Departments.

Business: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on sources of funding support for small and medium-sized enterprises in Northern Ireland. [62331]

Mr Hoban: The Government recognise the importance of improving the availability of finance in Northern Ireland and published, on the 24 March, a consultation document on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62494]

Justine Greening: A record of the Treasury's performance against contractual invoice payment times, usually 30 days, is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold. The Department's aim is to pay all valid goods and services invoices within five working days and this applies to all suppliers of goods and services.

Details of the Treasury Group's performance against this five working day aim since May 2010 can be found on the Department's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/group_payment_performance.htm

Economic Situation: EU Countries

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had recent discussions with the International Monetary Fund on the merits of providing further financial assistance to eurozone countries experiencing sovereign debt crises. [61730]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor is the UK's Governor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In this role, he represents the UK at International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) meetings twice a year. IMFC meetings consider a range of issues relating to the global economy and the role of the IMF. The most recent IMFC meeting was held in Washington DC in April.

The UK's day-to-day work at the IMF is conducted by our executive director at the IMF's executive board. As with every IMF programme, the Greek, Irish and Portuguese programmes are reviewed every three months by the executive board.

The UK executive director and his team will also engage with IMF staff and other country representatives on a regular basis at a working level.

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the level of the Government's total gross exposure to *(a)* Greece, *(b)* Ireland and *(c)* Portugal, including the UK share of loans provided through the EU and International Monetary Fund; and what the total gross exposure is of RBS plc to each country. [61731]

Mr Hoban: Regarding euro area financial assistance, €48.5 billion has been committed to Portugal and Ireland under the European financial stabilisation mechanism (EFSM). The UK has a contingent liability for any lending by the EFSM in proportion to the UK share of the EU budget (around 14%).

A bilateral loan of £3.227 billion is available to Ireland, which cannot be drawn until after the approval of the third quarterly IMF review.

In addition, €78.5 billion has been committed from the IMF to Greece, Ireland and Portugal. It is not possible to provide the UK's exposures to specific IMF programmes as the UK contributes funds to the IMF as a whole, rather than to any country-specific programme.

Royal Bank of Scotland has published information on country risk in their Q1 2011 interim management statement, available at the following link:

http://www.investors.rbs.com/results_presentations

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects payments to be made to Equitable Life policy holders; and in what order such payments will be made. [62407]

Mr Hoban: First payments from the Equitable Life Payment Scheme will be made at the end of this month. The Equitable Life Payment Scheme design document, laid before Parliament on 16 May, sets out the prioritisation principles for the scheme.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were prosecuted by HM Revenue and Customs for offences related to alcohol fraud in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [61911]

Justine Greening: The Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for prosecuting cases related to alcohol duty fraud. The numbers of people prosecuted were:

	Number
(a) 2007-08	19
(b) 2008-09	16
(c) 2009-10	22

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions officials of his Department have had with their international counterparts on measures to tackle alcohol fraud. [61913]

Justine Greening: Under the European Union Mutual Assistance arrangements HMRC is working closely with officials across the European Union to tackle specific threats to UK revenue from alcohol fraud. This work involves sharing intelligence and exchanging information in accordance with the EU arrangements.

Financial Services

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 893W, on financial services, when he expects to receive letters from the remuneration committee chair of each bank confirming its commitments as part of Project Merlin have been met. [60564]

Mr Hoban: The Remuneration Committee chair of each bank has written to the Financial Services Authority to confirm that their firm's 2010 pay settlements are consistent with the commitments in the Merlin statement.

Free Movement of Capital

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect on the UK economy of the imposition of capital controls between the EU as a whole and the rest of the world under Article 66 of the EU Treaty. [61946]

Mr Hoban: Article 66 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that:

"Where, in exceptional circumstances, movements of capital to or from third countries cause, or threaten to cause, serious difficulties for the operation of economic and monetary union, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Central Bank, may take safeguard measures with regard to third countries for a period not exceeding six months if such measures are strictly necessary."

There are no proposals to introduce such safeguard measures under Article 66, and the Government do not intend to comment on what is a hypothetical situation.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

David Mowat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the Valuation Office Agency's policy of assessing the rateable value of each business operating within a market hall for the purpose of levying national non-domestic rates; and if he will make a statement. [61655]

Mr Gauke: Valuation Officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) are required to follow legal precedent in determining whether each market trader has a separate occupation within a market or whether the market operator is in occupation of the whole market and it should therefore have a single assessment. The VOA has been carrying out a review of markets following concern that there was differential treatment between markets.

The National Market Traders' Federation (NMTF) and the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) have been consulted and involved from the outset. Valuation officers have written to traders in affected markets and offered and held meetings to discuss the changes where representations have been made. While there have been concerns from individual stall holders, the VOA have sought to mitigate this by consulting in advance with stallholders on their proposed rateable values and raising awareness of small business rate relief. CLG have also encouraged market owners (mostly local authorities) who will no longer have to pay rates to pass this saving on to the stallholders in reduced rents.

In addition VOA staff have attended a number of regional NABMA meetings to discuss issues around the review with representatives of traders and market managers.

Northern Rock

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the desired rate of return to the taxpayer from the sale of Northern Rock plc. [61818]

Mr Hoban: The development and execution of strategies for disposing of the Government's shareholding in Northern Rock is part of UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) remit. UKFI has been looking at the full range of alternatives for divestment, and has been exploring options based its overarching objective to protest and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition.

UKFI will evaluate any bids in line with these overarching objectives before providing advice to the Chancellor. It is too early to speculate on the rate of return from the sale of Northern Rock plc.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made on his Department's review of savings in private finance initiative contracts in the public sector; when the final report will be published; and if he will make a statement. [62158]

Danny Alexander: The pilot savings review at the Queen's hospital in Romford has tested the draft operational savings guidance published in January this year. The pilot project is near conclusion and when completed we will be sharing the lessons learnt across the wider PFI portfolio.

Mr Love: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has commissioned on the value for money of the private finance initiative contracts in the public sector; what assessment he has made of the value for money of the private finance initiative compared with other forms of procurement of public assets; and if he will make a statement. [62176]

Danny Alexander: Value for money is the primary driver for the choice of procurement route, and private finance is only used where it can be demonstrated to offer better value for money than a publicly financed alternative. HM Treasury's value for money guidance was published in 2006:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/vfm_assessmentguidance061006opt.pdf

The guidance sets out the different issues that procuring authorities should consider in establishing what the driving factors for value for money will be in their particular projects.

As part of the options appraisal, the Public Sector Comparator is used to provide an indication of the value for money of a PFI project compared to the conventionally procured alternative. We have strengthened the project approvals process with the introduction of the new Treasury approval process on the 1 April 2011, and the value for money of a project is assessed at a minimum of three approval stages.

To ensure we remain at the forefront of international best practise HM Treasury is undertaking a review of the value for money guidance on using private finance with a view to publishing updated guidance in the autumn.

Public Expenditure

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to Table 9.7 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2011, what categories of expenditure are included under non-identifiable public expenditure on public order and safety. [61953]

Danny Alexander: Table 9.7 in the PESA 2011 National Statistics release shows that in each of the past five years approximately 7% of expenditure on public order and safety was non-identifiable. Expenditure is non-identifiable when it cannot be classified as benefiting particular regions or countries and is deemed to be incurred on behalf of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Table 1 following shows the detail on items of non-identifiable public order spending, the majority of which is Home Office spending. The largest areas of spend are "Immigration and Nationality", "UK Passport Agency", and "Asylum Support Payments".

Table 1: Non-identifiable spending on public order and safety

Department name	*Spending area*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Home Office	Immigration and Nationality	1,146	1,176	1,694	1,671	1,661
	UK Passport agency	330	411	366	394	517
	Asylum Support Payments	424	410	0	0	0
	Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	-2	4	4	4	4
	IPS ID Cards	18	0	0	0	0
	Work Permits	11	0	0	0	0
Assets Recovery Agency	Operation	6	13	0	0	0
	Support	4	3	0	0	0
Ministry of Justice	Policy, Corporate Services and Associated Offices	0	0	4	0	0
The Supreme Court	United Kingdom Supreme Court	0	0	0	0	2
Grand Total		1,938	2,018	2,069	2,070	2,185

Public Finance Initiative

Stella Creasy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the level of tax revenue generated directly by companies undertaking delivery and management of public finance initiative projects in the UK between 2002 and 2012. [61169]

Danny Alexander: The Government cannot comment on the tax affairs of individual companies. This information is held by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs on a confidential basis. The entities involved in private finance initiative projects include construction firms, service firms, advisory firms, banks and investors. Many of these are based in the UK and pay UK corporation tax.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was provided to HM Revenue and Customs to reduce levels of *(a)* avoidance and *(b)* evasion of each direct and indirect tax in each of the last four financial years; and how much he plans to so allocate in respect of each tax in each of the next four financial years. [61659]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to provide an answer to the question in the format requested as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not allocate on this basis. Overall funding for HMRC's compliance activity cannot be broken down in this way as its activity—from policy making, through support and education, to audits and investigations—covers all aspects of compliance behaviour from error through to evasion as well as countering criminal attacks and avoidance.

Taxation: Banks

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of taxation in the banking sector. [61762]

Mr Hoban: HM Revenue and Customs previously estimated that large banking groups would pay around £20 billion in pay-as-you-earn (income tax and national insurance contributions) and corporation tax in 2010-11.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the potential contribution of fiscal measures to *(a)* increasing the rate of recycling and *(b)* reducing the level of excess packaging used by manufacturers and retailers. [61354]

Justine Greening: DEFRA's review of waste policy, published on 15 June, announced that there would be a consultation on the case for increased recovery targets for packaging waste in time for a final decision in the 2012 Budget.

Taxation: Overpayments

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* has changed the rate of interest charged on overdue payments of tax and *(b)* does not pay interest on tax overpaid and subsequently reclaimed. [61616]

Mr Gauke: The rate of interest charged by HMRC has not changed since September 2009.

HMRC does pay repayment interest on tax overpaid for all the main taxes. Repayment interest accrues from the later of the due date for payment or the date the tax was paid, to the date that the amount is repaid.

Both the current and historical rates of interest charged and paid by HMRC are available on the HMRC website.

Taxation: Rescue Services

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend the excise duty relief for mineral hydrocarbon oil awarded to rescue boats to include diesel used exclusively for mountain rescue. [62432]

Justine Greening: Marine voyages relief is available to all commercial vessels including those used in a safety or rescue function. This relief reflects the international market for marine fuelling where a co-ordinated international approach to taxation is necessary given the mobility of this sector.

Registered charities mountain rescue teams are eligible for broad relief on income. The Government recognise the valuable work of mountain rescue teams and tax policy maintains a neutral approach toward charitable causes.

Welfare Tax Credits

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much funding he has allocated to expenditure to be incurred in transferring from child care support and tax credits to any replacement system; [61495]

(2) what proposals he has for a system to replace child care support and tax credits; and when he plans to publish details of any such system. [61496]

Mr Gauke: The Government are working with key stakeholders, drawing on their expertise, to establish which options will best support parents to meet the costs of child care in the future within or alongside universal credit. Details of the new proposal will be set out shortly. Government policy design and development is using the working assumption that current levels of spend on demand-side support for child care will be maintained.

Over the spending review period £2 billion has been set aside as part of the Department for Work and Pensions settlement to fund the implementation of the universal credit.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken to *(a)* process an application for and *(b)* make an award of tax credits. [61972]

Mr Gauke: Information is not available in the format requested. HM Revenue and Customs aims to pay 60% of tax credits new claims in 15 days. The outturn at the end of April 2011 was 60.2%.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Timber

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the requirement for planting of new trees to meet demand for biomass electricity generation in the next four financial years. [61569]

Charles Hendry: A wide range of biomass feedstocks can be used for electricity generation. Dry agricultural residues such as straw can be combusted to generate electricity. Wet biomass residues such as food waste, sewage and manure can be processed in an anaerobic digestion (AD) plant to produce biogas. Woodfuel can be sourced from timber processing residues, such as off-cuts and sawdust, and by diverting waste wood from landfill, as well as from small round-wood and thinnings from sustainably managed forests. Perennial energy crops, such as miscanthus grass and short rotation coppice (SRC) willow which can be cultivated on farmland unsuitable for food crops, can provide a fast-growing source of biomass fuel.

We expect large-scale biomass electricity to be primarily fuelled by imports, and that the global supply market will respond to the growth of renewable energy in this country and worldwide.

Whether biomass feedstocks for energy are sourced from a forest, farm or elsewhere and whether it is homegrown or imported, it is essential that they are sustainably sourced. Therefore in April, we introduced a requirement to report on sustainability criteria under the Renewables Obligation (RO). These criteria include a minimum greenhouse gas lifecycle saving of 60% compared to fossil fuel, which considers the cultivation, processing and transport of the feedstock, and general restrictions on using biomass sourced from areas important on carbon or biodiversity grounds such as primary forests.

We intend, from April 2013, that biomass electricity plants of 1 MWe or above will be required to meet the sustainability criteria to receive financial support under the RO.

In addition, the Government recognise that with one of the lowest levels of woodland cover in Europe, England's natural environment needs more trees and woodlands. The Forestry Commission is working with other Government Departments and many stakeholder groups through the Woodland Carbon Task Force to provide frameworks to enable the use of private finance and public engagement to expand woodland cover and to increase the benefits that can be derived from them.

During 2011-12 the Forestry Commission intends to distribute a further £30.6 million as part of the woodland related components of the Rural Development Programme for England of which £14.9 million will support woodland expansion.

Forestry Commission Scotland recognises that forestry can make a significant contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change and meeting the Scottish Government's targets for renewable energy. To support this, during 2011-12 Forestry Commission Scotland intends to distribute a further £36 million as part of the woodland related components in the Rural Priorities schemes of the Scottish Rural Development Programme, of which £30 million has been allocated to support approved proposals for woodland creation and sustainable forest management.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of demand for material for biomass electricity generation on the *(a)* supply and *(b)* price of timber; [61602]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of subsidies on the generation of electricity from biomass on the competitiveness of the wood panel industry; [61639]

(3) if he will assess the potential effect of subsidies for electricity generated from biomass on *(a)* the price of wood charged to small and medium-sized companies and *(b)* the (i) availability and (ii) cost of timber to all manufacturers. [61658]

Charles Hendry: The Department takes account of demand from non-energy sectors in assessing the supply of sustainable biomass available for the generation of electricity and heat, and the subsidies that should apply to bringing forward that generation. We believe this is the best way to avoid supply pressures on other users of biomass feedstocks. Assumptions and analysis of biomass availability and prices will be published alongside the RO banding review consultation due this summer. This analysis also underpins a UK bioenergy strategy which the Government will publish later this year.

We expect large-scale biomass electricity plants to be fuelled by imported feedstocks. Isolating the potential impact of UK energy subsidies on global biomass prices is inevitably difficult. Many other factors condition supply, prices and the competitiveness of user industries.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the policy of his Department is on increasing the supply of wood residue, and wood and food waste for use in biomass electricity generation. [61603]

Charles Hendry: Our policy is to increase the supply of sustainable biomass, including wood residues, wood and food waste, available to the UK market. This will enable the growth of all UK biomass-using industries.

We expect that large-scale biomass electricity will be primarily fuelled by imports. In terms of domestic supply, around 40% of the UK's forests and woodlands, as measured by land area, are not currently under an active management plan. This is a major missed opportunity for the UK in terms of biodiversity as well as the potential wood supplies. The Forestry Commission is developing a new Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) which will offer a 60% contribution to costs of forest roads, access tracks and other related harvesting infrastructure.

We are also encouraging our electricity generators to look beyond forests and woodlands when sourcing biomass feedstocks. Biomass suitable for energy generation can come from a very wide range of plant and animal based materials, many of which are unsuitable as raw materials for our wood processing industries. These include perennial energy crops such as miscanthus grass and short rotation coppice (SRC) willow, which can be grown on lower grade land unsuitable for food crops. Similarly, dry farming residues such as straw can be combusted for energy.

The Renewables Obligation (RO) currently provides additional support for energy crops over other biomass feedstocks. This 'uplift' of 0.5 ROC aims to stimulate interest in energy crops by the power generation sector and to help develop the fuel supply chain. Support is also provided directly to farmers through the Energy Crops Scheme (ECS) which is part of DEFRA's Rural Development Programme for England. The ECS provides grants that reimburse 50% of planting costs.

The support available for electricity produced using anaerobic digestion under the Renewables Obligation or Feed-in Tariffs is encouraging the collection and use of suitable wet biomass feedstocks including food waste and manure. The joint DECC and DEFRA Anaerobic Digestion strategy and action plan, published on 14 June, sets out how we will enable a thriving industry to grow in England over the next few years, delivering new green jobs as well as new green energy.

In addition, DEFRA recently announced that it will consult next year on introducing a landfill restriction on wood waste, and review the case for introducing landfill bans on other materials, such as metals, textiles and all biodegradable waste.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the planting of coppiced wood for use in the biomass industry on unoccupied agricultural land. [62083]

Gregory Barker: DECC supports the use of short rotation coppice (SRC) for energy generation. The renewables obligation provides specific support for electricity from purpose grown energy crops such as SRC through an uplift of 0.5 ROC over other forms of biomass. This support is designed to help develop the supply chain by stimulating interest in energy crops by the power generation sector.

Climate Change: Seas and Oceans

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of global warming on levels of sea and ocean acidification; [62084]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of global warming on sea levels. [62085]

Gregory Barker: Measurements have shown that acidification of the world's oceans is occurring as a direct result of increased uptake of higher levels of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and scientists estimate that a 30% increase in ocean acidity has occurred since pre-industrial times. Ocean acidification is thus not a direct result of global warming. However, additionally

as ocean temperature increases in response to climate change, its capacity to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere will be reduced slightly.

DEFRA, DECC and the Natural Environment Research Council are jointly funding the five-year UK Ocean Acidification Research Programme to improve predictions of future changes in ocean chemistry and understand the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment and the consequences for society.

The IPCC s Fourth Assessment Report (2007) and scientific research published since 2007 have concluded that global sea levels will likely rise by between 0.18 and 0.59 metres (relative to 1980-1999) by the end of this century as a result of global warming, but this estimate did not take account of the effect of ice melt in Greenland and Antarctica which were too uncertain.

Combined Heat and Power

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential contribution to reduction of carbon emissions of deployment of community-scale gas-fuelled combined heat and power systems. [62476]

Gregory Barker: DECC commissioned a report from Poyry Consulting in 2009 to establish the potential for district heating as a commercially viable replacement to conventional gas and electric heating in the existing domestic housing stock. Drawing on previous studies, the report stated that district heating from all heat generation sources, including CHP, may be a cost-effective solution for between 4 million and 6 million households, but this figure was highly dependent on the rate of return expected on the investment.

Recognising the importance of heat in terms of emissions and energy use, DECC is currently undertaking an internal strategic analysis on the future supply of heat in the UK. This work will investigate the potential of all heat supply technologies at all scales, including CHP.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the mini-combined heat and power sector on proposals to extend support for combined heat and power following the comprehensive review of feed-in tariffs. [62477]

Gregory Barker: My officials have had discussions with representatives of the Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA) and companies in the micro-CHP industry on the impact of the feed-in tariffs (FITs) on incentivising development within the industry. We are also considering the responses received in the call for evidence on the scope for the comprehensive review from CHPA and other companies in the micro-CHP industry.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61674]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change sets behavioural standards in the pre-contractual invitation to tender and in the terms and conditions of contracts.

Invitations to tender issued by the Department request contractors to: submit a statement of non-collusion; submit referees from customers; comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as amended by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005; and comply with the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. In addition, where appropriate, the Department also requests bidders to provide their health and safety policy, a summary of their environmental procedures and details of quality assurance procedures.

Contracts can be terminated for breach of the Department's terms and conditions covering the following behavioural standards: confidentiality; services must be provided in accordance with good industry practice and legal requirements; services must be provided in compliance with the Department's security vetting procedure and the Official Secrets Act; the contractor shall not offer corrupt gifts or payment of commission; the contractor shall ensure there is no conflict of interest with the Department; the contractor must ensure Government property including data is kept securely; the contractor must comply with non-discrimination, the Disability Equality Scheme, the Race Equality Scheme, the principals of the Authorities Welsh Language Scheme, all applicable environmental laws and all other applicable law.

Energy: Housing

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W, on insulation: housing, what measures his Department is putting in place to assist home owners in properties without cavity wall insulation to make their homes more energy efficient. [62498]

Gregory Barker: Last summer we extended the carbon emissions reduction target to the end of 2012 refocusing it on delivering insulation. We estimate that some 3.5 million households will benefit from different forms of wall and roof insulation as a result.

Following this, the Green Deal will transform the landscape for energy efficiency, offering households the opportunity to improve their energy performance at no up-front cost. Green Deal will be supported by an energy company obligation focused on delivering assistance to low income and hard to treat properties, particularly those needing solid wall insulation. We will consult on the details of the obligation this autumn.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what planning his Department is undertaking to *(a)* prevent fuel poverty and *(b)* mitigate the impact of energy price rises among elderly and vulnerable people in the winter of 2011-12. [62052]

Gregory Barker: The new Warm Home Discount scheme will require energy companies by law to give a discount on energy bills to more of their most low

income and vulnerable customers. Government are working to get regulations approved by Parliament to ensure the poorest pensioners receive a £120 discount on their electricity bill this year. Other groups such as low income families and those with long term illnesses and disabilities may also receive this discount.

For the next two years, Government are continuing to fund a better targeted Warm Front scheme to provide help with heating measures to vulnerable consumers. From 2013 a new energy company obligation will provide support for energy efficiency measures. This will include a target to provide low income vulnerable households, including the elderly, with measures to improve their ability to heat their homes affordably—such as insulation and central heating.

In addition there are existing initiatives like winter fuel payments for pensioners, and the cold weather payments which support low income and vulnerable households in particular geographic areas during extended periods of cold weather.

Fuel Poverty: Older People

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to alleviate fuel poverty among the elderly. [61983]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Home Discount scheme introduced in April this year will require energy companies by law to give a discount on energy bills to more of their most low income and vulnerable customers. Government are working to get regulations approved by Parliament to ensure the poorest pensioners receive a £120 discount on their electricity bill this year. Over the four years to 2015, the Warm Home Discount scheme will be worth up to £1.1 billion and will help around 2 million households per year.

A new energy company obligation will provide support for energy efficiency measures. This will include a target to provide low income vulnerable households, including the elderly, with measures to improve their ability to heat their homes affordably—such as insulation and central heating.

In addition there are a package of measures we have in place to combat fuel poverty, including existing initiatives like winter fuel payments for pensioners and the cold weather payments which support low income and vulnerable households, including the elderly, in particular geographic areas during extended periods of cold weather.

Green Deal Scheme

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to support innovation in the Green Deal. [62428]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal will allow for the cost of energy efficiency measures to be repaid through the savings they create. This will encourage innovation by incentivising improved performance across existing technologies and entirely new technologies coming to market.

Renewable Energy: EU Action

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the establishment of EU-wide targets for the use of renewable energy by 2030. [61660]

Gregory Barker: While it is important for all EU member states to develop trajectories for moving to a low carbon economy to meet the European Council's target of an 80-95% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, it is too early to consider the need for a specific renewables target for 2030.

Wind Power

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* efficiency and *(b)* use of land-based wind-powered electricity generators. [61124]

Charles Hendry: The proportion of maximum output that UK wind farms have generated on average is known as the load factor. In 2009 the load factor for onshore wind was 26.9%. Provisional figures indicate that for 2010 the load factor for onshore wind was just over 20% due to lower wind speeds.

In 2010 onshore wind power produced approximately 7 TWh, which is equivalent to the annual consumption of around 1.5 million homes.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives are available to registered providers to ensure that more *(a)* new and *(b)* existing housing stock is provided for low-paid working people under the Affordable Homes programme for 2011-14; and if he will make a statement. [61795]

Grant Shapps: In February, my Department and the Homes and Communities Agency published the Affordable Homes programme framework, setting out the criteria and guidance for providers to put forward offers to deliver affordable housing between 2011-12 and 2014-15.

Nearly £4.5 billion of investment is available for new affordable housing to help deliver up to 150,000 affordable homes in England over the spending review period.

Affordable Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much is to be paid to *(a)* Cross Keys Homes, *(b)* Axiom Housing Association, *(c)* Accent Nene Housing, *(d)* Minster Housing Association and *(e)* other registered providers in the Peterborough city council area in respect of the Affordable Homes programme for 2011-14; and if he will make a statement. [61796]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency is currently considering the offers made by providers for funding through the Affordable Homes programme

2011-15. We expect initial contracts with providers who are successful in receiving allocations for the new programme to be signed in September.

Localism Bill

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has any plans to bring forward further amendments to the Localism Bill in the light of representations from hon. Members and others; and if he will make a statement. [60359]

Greg Clark: Throughout the progress of the Localism Bill through Parliament our approach has consistently been to seek common ground and consensus.

We have already made amendments at Commons Report in light of representations from hon. Members and others. Furthermore, on 18 June, following on from debate in the Commons, we laid further amendments in relation to local authority pay accountability.

I can assure my hon. Friend that the Government will continue to listen and reflect as necessary as the Bill proceeds through the other place.

Regional Planning and Development

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 491W, on regional planning and development: eco-towns, how many partial reviews of regional spatial strategies were initiated between July 2008 and April 2010. [62433]

Greg Clark: The following partial reviews of regional spatial strategies were initiated between July 2008 and April 2010:

South East, partial review Minerals apportionment (02 March 2009);

East of England, partial review Lakeside Thurrock (6 April 2009);

South East, partial review Gypsy and Travellers alterations (8 June 2009);

North West, partial review Parking standards, Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Show people (27 July 2009).

None of these four partial reviews covered the topic of eco-towns.

Regional Planning and Development: Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has given local authorities in South Worcestershire on the abolition of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. [60013]

Greg Clark: The Chief Planner wrote to all local planning authorities on 11 November 2010 on the Government's intention to abolish regional strategies through the Localism Bill; a copy of the letter is available in the Library of the House. The Government have not published further guidance.

More broadly, local planning authorities should continue to develop local plans that reflect local people's aspirations and decisions on important issues such as climate change, housing and economic development, having regard to national policy.

Upon commencement, the Localism Bill will remove any requirement for local plans to be in conformity with regional strategies. Local planning authorities should be collecting and analysing evidence if they wish to revise their local plans; to pass a test of soundness local plans will have to be able to demonstrate they are:

Justified—contain planning policies based on evidence;

Effective—cover cross boundary strategic planning issues; and

Consistent—in conformity with national planning guidance.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has met representatives of Shia opposition groups in Bahrain. [61125]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials regularly meet representatives from Shia political groups and our ambassador continues to meet with representatives from both Shia and Sunni communities in Bahrain.

British Council: Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 202W, on the British Council: internet, what the nationalities are of the 46.1 million people reached by the British Council's online work. [60069]

Mr Hague: The British Council does not capture the nationality of users visiting its website. The 46.1 million figure is based on individual internet protocol (IP) addresses of those computers used to visit British Council websites. While the Council are unable to capture the nationality of those using these IP addresses, they are able to record the country or territory of origin of each IP address using Webtrends, and this information for 40.29 million users is in the following table:

British Council: Break down of audience figures for 2010-11, by countries or territories of origin

Country/territory	*Yearly visitors (Number)*
China	10,296,101
United Kingdom	4,231,452
United States	2,316,941
India	1,765,498
Spain	1,634,379
France	941,254
Turkey	810,572
Italy	783,589
South Korea	752,700
Australia	719,052
Pakistan	680,749
Poland	579,450
Germany	576,602

British Council: Break down of audience figures for 2010-11, by countries or territories of origin

Country/territory	*Yearly visitors (Number)*
Taiwan	564,001
Vietnam	535,452
Canada	506,526
Brazil	498,927
Egypt	490,135
Russian Federation	481,857
Thailand	460,337
Romania	455,202
Saudi Arabia	426,657
Mexico	419,377
Malaysia	413,568
Colombia	399,554
Japan	365,684
Singapore	361,364
Indonesia	361,025
Greece	359,844
Netherlands	358,680
Philippines	347,463
United Arab Emirates	310,253
Ukraine	261,854
Czech Republic	258,879
Portugal	229,347
Argentina	219,640
Sri Lanka	170,852
Bangladesh	168,249
Bulgaria	164,697
Chile	163,380
Hungary	158,036
Morocco	157,714
Ireland	151,783
Nigeria	146,559
Algeria	133,794
Belgium	123,530
Denmark	118,968
Sweden	115,321
Switzerland	114,425
Austria	111,707
Norway	110,344
Israel	107,525
Slovakia	104,797
New Zealand	102,091
Jordan	101,378
Tunisia	99,630
Qatar	99,589
Peru	95,241
Venezuela	93,601
Kuwait	89,707
South Africa	88,525
Lithuania	69,116
Georgia	64,425
Burma	64,134
Croatia	63,998
Latvia	63,934
Finland	61,296
Kazakhstan	60,152
Cyprus	58,941
Iran	57,822
Slovenia	56,005
Oman	53,351
Nepal	51,944
Azerbaijan	49,965
Bahrain	48,637
Serbia	47,590

British Council: Break down of audience figures for 2010-11, by countries or territories of origin

Country/territory	*Yearly visitors (Number)*
Occupied Palestinian Territories	46,684
Syria	45,632
Macedonia	45,388
Uruguay	44,370
Kenya	42,304
Libya	41,152
Lebanon	38,978
Mauritius	37,816
Sudan	33,476
Ghana	33,443
Ecuador	32,592
Albania	30,330
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29,379
Estonia	27,833
Yemen	25,764
Uganda	25,142
Jamaica	23,996
Armenia	23,633
Trinidad and Tobago	22,177
Costa Rica	21,739
Malta	21,537
Iraq	20,903
Belarus	20,491
Senegal	19,121
Iceland	18,814
Uzbekistan	18,479
Ethiopia	18,441
Tanzania	18,235
Moldova	17,401
Cameroon	16,280
Cambodia	15,392
El Salvador	15,218
Luxembourg	13,579
Guatemala	13,522
Maldives	13,484
Panama	12,994
Brunei Darussalam	11,914
Dominican Republic	10,332
Puerto Rico	10,025
Mongolia	9,961
Montenegro	9,202
Botswana	9,028
Zimbabwe	8,931
Cote D'Ivoire	8,479
Bolivia	8,286
Afghanistan	7,799
Malawi	6,841
Mozambique	5,381
Zambia	5,193
Kyrgyzstan	4,635
Honduras	4,615
Paraguay	4,611
Rwanda	4,500
Nicaragua	4,480
Namibia	4,452
Bhutan	4,131
Barbados	3,670
Guyana	3,451
Bahamas	3,201
Laos	3,130
Fiji	2,956
Madagascar	2,916
Angola	2,874

British Council: Break down of audience figures for 2010-11, by countries or territories of origin

Country/territory	*Yearly visitors (Number)*
Djibouti	2,508
Belize	2,216
Burkina Faso	2,158
Eritrea	2,110
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2,088
Cuba	1,902
Benin	1,827
Mali	1,758
St Lucia	1,539
Gambia	1,532
Congo (Democratic Republic)	1,493
Mauritania	1,436
Seychelles	1,429
Tajikistan	1,414
Grenada	1,412
Andorra	1,366
Haiti	1,357
Antigua and Barbuda	1,273
Monaco	1,227
Netherlands Antilles	1,178
Togo	1,145
Swaziland	1,014
Papua New Guinea	884
Cape Verde	846
Gabon	783
Liberia	752
Dominica	717
Turkmenistan	708
Congo	702
Suriname	671
St Kitts and Nevis	570
Sierra Leone	552
Liechtenstein	521
Niger	479
Aruba	470

A further 2.2 million users reflects those where Webtrends, our corporate tracking system, does not determine a visitor's location.

The remaining 3.6 million users reflect website(s) where Webtrends tracking code has not yet been applied.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61711]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no current plans to publish this information, but is committed to transparency and the availability of data and will keep this under review.

Embassies: Flags

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the decision to fly the EU flag alongside the Union flag at British embassies and missions was made; who made the decision; and whether the decision was requested by any EU institution. [61302]

Mr Lidington: The flying of the EU flag alongside the Union flag at British embassies and missions is a matter for individual ambassadors and heads of mission to decide, drawing on local practice or precedent as they see fit. For example the UK's representation to the EU in Brussels displays the European flag at all times, as do all our EU partners on their buildings. On Europe day (9 May), posts in EU and EU-applicant countries display the European flag.

The British flag has precedence. In all cases where it is deployed, the European flag is displayed alongside, not instead of, the British Diplomatic, Consular or (in Commonwealth countries) Union flag.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60692]

Mr Lidington: There are no directives which were in force at 1 April 2010, or have come into force since 1 April 2010, for which the FCO has responsibility.

Gilad Shalit

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to bring about the release of Gilad Shalit; what discussions he has had at UN level on Gilad Shalit; and if he will make a statement. [60469]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 332W.

We regularly hold discussions through London and our embassy in Tel Aviv about the release of Gilad Shalit with other EU and UN partners. Most recently, HMA Tel Aviv met with Gilad Shalit's family on 20 June.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the enforcement of sanctions against Iran. [60030]

Mr Hague: On 23 May, the EU strengthened its sanctions against Iran by adding over one hundred more entities to its regulation. Until Iran recognises the need to engage meaningfully about the nature of its nuclear programme, we will continue to add further measures to increase pressure on Iran, including in partnership with the EU and others. We continue to work with all EU partners to ensure these measures are enforced.

Iran: Satellites

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the launch by Iran of a Rassad-1 satellite; what recent discussions he has had at the UN on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [62005]

Alistair Burt: The Rassad-1 satellite was launched on 15 June. We are concerned that Iran's space launch programme utilises technologies which are highly relevant to the development of long range ballistic missiles and that Iran is continuing to enhance its ballistic missile capabilities. The UK Permanent Representative at the UN made a statement to the UN Security Council on 23 June condemning the Iranian launch, which was in clear violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929.

Israel: Non-governmental Organisations

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Israeli Government on legislative proposals under consideration in the Knesset on the funding of European non-governmental organisations in the region. [60646]

Alistair Burt: On 21 February the Knesset passed a Transparency law requiring greater disclosure by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) funded by foreign governments. The law requires that such NGOs (must) submit and publish quarterly returns of such funding.

Our embassy in Tel Aviv and our consulate general in Jerusalem have had contacts with a number of non-governmental organisations on these issues. We understand that the new law is likely to have limited impact upon their organisations.

NGOs play a crucial role in Israel's democracy, as elsewhere, and the Government are committed to continuing to support such work.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Libya; and what his policy is on the continuation of military operations until the departure from Libya of Colonel Gaddafi. [62422]

Mr Jeremy Browne: It is clear that Gaddafi no longer has legitimacy and so he should heed the calls of the Libyan people and the international community to leave immediately. We recognise the National Transitional Council as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people and welcome their efforts to include all Libyans and to prepare for a political transition in which Libyans can decide on their own future.

NATO's mandate is to protect civilians as outlined in UNSCR 1973. As the Prime Minister has made clear, action will continue under the United Nations Resolutions for as long as is necessary to protect the Libyan people from danger. We are steadily and deliberately reducing Gaddafi's ability to launch and sustain attacks on his own people. But his regime is still inflicting considerable harm on the civilian population.

Libya: Mercenaries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of UK nationals working as mercenaries in Libya. [60029]

Mr Hague: I have not seen any credible reports of British nationals working as mercenaries in Libya. Our position is clear: the UK deplores Gaddafi's use of mercenaries to harm civilians and, on 17 March, the UK voted in support of United National Security Council resolution 1973 which "deplores the continuing flow of mercenaries into the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and calls on all Member States to comply strictly with their obligations".

Office of UK Permanent Representative to EU

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the capabilities required of the next UK Permanent Representative to the EU. [60429]

Mr Lidington: The next Permanent Representative to the EU will need to be strategic, advising how best to promote and protect the UK's interests across a broad and complex set of issues; and influential, with the EU institutions and in negotiating creatively and effectively with EU member states. He or she will need a good understanding of the dynamics of the EU, and to understand French. He or she will need to be able to lead effectively a large team promoting and protecting UK interests at all stages of negotiations.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to recommend the appointment of the next UK Permanent Representative to the EU. [60430]

Mr Lidington: The appointment of the next UK Permanent Representative to the EU is being handled as part of a continuing process to fill a number of senior diplomatic posts from within the civil service. An announcement will be made shortly.

Pakistan: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK nationals who travelled to Pakistan in each of the last three years. [60082]

Mr Hague: The FCO does not hold information on the number or destination of British nationals travelling overseas.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy to vote against any resolution at the UN General Assembly calling for a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood; and if he will make a statement; [62013]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the UN Secretary General, *(b)* the Government of Israel, *(c)* the Palestinian Authority, *(d)* the Arab League and *(e)* the US Administration on a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood; and if he will make a statement; [62014]

(3) if he will make it his policy to oppose the creation of a Palestinian state at the UN; if he will support the resumption of direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [62090]

Alistair Burt: We believe the priority is a return to negotiations. We are pressing both the Israelis and the Palestinians to return to the table further to President Obama's speech of 19 May 2011, making clear that negotiations should be on the basis of 1967 borders with mutually agreed land swaps and security arrangements to secure Israel and respect Palestinian sovereignty.

September sees the completion of the Palestinian Authority's two-year programme to build the institutions of a future Palestinian state. We need to see progress on the negotiation track to match this progress on the ground. We are making this absolutely clear in our contacts with both parties.

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the situation of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani in Iran. [61959]

Mr Jeremy Browne: One year after Ms Ashtiani's case came to global attention, her situation remains unclear and we are concerned for her well-being and that of her family and her lawyer, Javad Houtan Kian. We have raised this case frequently with the Iranian authorities and will continue to do so.

Serbia: EU Enlargement

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the accession of Serbia to the EU. [60990]

Mr Lidington: The Government strongly support the EU perspective of Serbia along with that of the whole Western Balkans region. Progress along the EU track is of course subject to the relevant conditions being met. I look forward to reviewing the Commission's Avis this autumn, which will look at Serbia's progress on the full range of conditions set by the EU. The UK, together with the rest of the Council, will then decide whether sufficient progress has been made for Serbia to progress to the next stage.

Serbia: Travellers

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Serbian counterpart the recent forced evictions of Roma families from Belgrade; and if he will request the European Commission to raise this issue with representatives of the Serbian Government in discussions over that country's application for accession to the EU. [62533]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government work directly with the Serbian authorities in improving the lives of the Roma. For example, the British embassy in Belgrade is funding a project, in co-operation with the Serbian Ombudsman's office, which will produce concrete statistics about the Serbian Roma population to inform a series of clear recommendations to each Serbian Ministry on what needs to done to help improve their lives.

Equally, the EU raise the issue regularly with the Serbian authorities. Respect for minority rights is an essential element of the criteria for progress towards EU accession. The Commission 2010 Progress Report on Serbia highlighted the importance of respect for minority rights, including those of the Roma. The Commission, in preparing its Opinion, due in the autumn, on Serbia's application for EU membership, will be assessing progress in addressing all the reform areas highlighted in last year's progress report, including respect for minority rights.

I am planning to visit Belgrade in September and intend to talk to the Serbian authorities about requirements for EU progression, including minority and Roma rights.

Syrian Arab Republic: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of personnel sent by Iran to Syria for the purpose of countering anti-Government demonstrations; whether he plans to raise this issue at the United Nations; and if he will make a statement.[R] [59039]

Alistair Burt: We are deeply concerned by credible information that Iran is providing equipment and technical advice to the Syrian Government to help them counter protests in Syria.

This is unacceptable. As elsewhere in the region, protestors in Syria must be allowed the right to protest peacefully without fear of brutal repression. It is a further example of Iran's blatant hypocrisy in claiming to support freedom in the Arab world, while violently suppressing demonstrations at home and helping to quell protests in Syria.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is the main body providing support to the Syrian regime. My officials have expressed our serious concern to the Iranian authorities and have discussed this issue with our international partners. We and EU partners have already placed travel bans and asset freezes on leading members of the IRGC and IRGC entities. We are in negotiations at the UNSC on the text of a UNSCR condemning the violence and use of force in Syria.

Eurozone

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the contribution of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 26, on the Eurozone (contingency plans), what constitutional criteria he uses to determine whether a referendum should be held; and what his policy is on the requirement for a referendum in relation to any change in the constitutional relationship between the UK and that part of the EU which constitutes the Eurozone. [61908]

Mr Lidington: There is a policy reflected in the EU Bill that is currently being debated before Parliament that, once the Bill is in force, all future treaty changes and Article 48(6) decisions will be treated in accordance with the Bill's provisions, namely a statement is to be

made as to whether the treaty or Article 48(6) decision falls within section 4(1) of the Bill (transfers of competence or power from the UK to the EU requiring a referendum), as well as an act of parliament. In addition, clause 6 of the EU Bill also requires that certain decisions automatically require approval by Act and by referendum, and this includes a decision to make the euro the currency of the UK.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [61955]

Alistair Burt: The UK Government remain extremely concerned about the situation in Yemen. President Saleh has refused to sign the agreement brokered by the Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), despite previously having agreed to do so.

We continue to work with Vice President Hadi and other key players in the Government and opposition to help secure the political change that Yemen so badly needs. We continue to urge the Vice President to engage with all sides to implement the Gulf Co-operation Council agreement and begin political transition. We encourage all sides to respect the current ceasefire, participate in dialogue as a way forward and to restrain from further violent clashes.

EDUCATION

Child: Sexual Exploitation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the outcomes were of the Minister for Children's March 2011 roundtable meeting with ministerial colleagues on child sexual exploitation. [59220]

Tim Loughton: The roundtable meeting which I chaired in March involved senior representatives from a range of organisations and was an extremely interesting and useful step in the Government's drive to do everything possible to stamp out child sexual exploitation. We identified a number of issues which need to be addressed, including awareness raising, effective prevention and detection, securing more prosecutions and the need to support victims. Officials in the Department are now working across Government Departments and with a wide range of partners to produce an action plan, building on existing guidance. I aim to publish the action plan for tackling this appalling form of child abuse in the autumn.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60907]

Tim Loughton: The term 'visual data security' is an ambiguous one. For the purposes of this response the Department assumes that it is intended to relate to visual threats to the security of data.

The Department requires all its staff to complete a mandatory, annual refresher training module in Protecting Information. This training covers all aspects of information protection and includes specific guidance on managing visual threats (eg on-screen e-mail, documents or papers being overlooked) within the office, while travelling and when working in public spaces. On completion of this annual training module all staff are required to complete and pass an assessment test to ensure that they have absorbed and understood the material. In addition to this 'Level 1' Protecting Information training module that is completed annually by all staff there are also a further three levels of Protecting Information training which DFE staff with particular Information Assurance responsibilities complete each year. These further training modules are made available to all DFE staff but apply in particular to the Department's project/line managers, information asset owners and the senior information risk owner.

Further guidance for all staff on the protection of information on PC, laptop, and BlackBerry screens, especially when outside departmental premises, is maintained on the information security pages on the departmental intranet.

The mandatory annual training for all staff is supplemented by a range of further targeted (by group and/or topic) activity to promote best practice across the Department in the management of data security threats. Recent examples of activities that the Department has carried out which have included specific guidance on managing visual threats to the security of data include:

Production of a tailored briefing pack on security requirements and best practice for DFE Ministers;

A series of briefing sessions on security requirements and best practice given by specialist security practitioners to staff working in the private offices of DFE Ministers and the permanent secretary;

A note issued to all DFE staff making clear the Department's expectations of them in regard to avoiding the leaking of sensitive material.

The Department also employs a number of specialist security practitioners to provide expert advice, direction, challenge and assurance in all aspects of the Department's management of security risk, including visual threats to the security of data. These specialists undergo ongoing professional training and development to ensure that they remain up-to-date with the latest HMG standards, good practice guidance and emerging threats.

Dr Thomas Spielhofer

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Dr Thomas Spielhofer. [59975]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), and Ministers in the Department have not had discussions with Thomas Spielhofer.

Thomas Spielhofer currently works for the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. In the past, while working for the National Foundation for Educational Research, he conducted research on various topics on behalf of the Department. These topics included barriers to participation in education and training, and raising the participation age in education to age 18.

Free School Meals

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* free schools and *(b)* academies will be required to provide free meals to eligible post-16 students. [59974]

Mr Gibb: Free schools and academies are governed by a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. The funding agreement provides the framework within which these schools operate and requires free schools and academies to provide free school meals to eligible pupils aged up to 18 years. This requirement also applies to pupils in these institutions who are aged 19 or over, if their course of study began before they attained the age of 18.

Marriage Guidance: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 497-8W, on marriage guidance: grants, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the bid document for each organisation listed and *(b)* each item of correspondence relating to the bids; [61053]

(2) pursuant to the answers of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on marriage guidance: grants and column 500W, on voluntary organisations: grants, when he expects the remainder of the funding to be allocated; [61054]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W, on marriage guidance: grants, what the key performance indicators are for each organisation. [61055]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* In most cases, the negotiations to finalise grants for relationship support have resulted in amendments to the proposals first submitted in the bid document. The Department will therefore supply the hon. Member with copies of the grant funding agreements with these organisations as these give a clearer picture of the services to be provided. I will write to the hon. Member with those details shortly and place copies in the House Libraries.

Grant funding has been allocated for 2011-13. Individual organisations' funding for 2012-13 will, of course, depend on delivery in the current year, as set out the grant funding agreements between the organisations and the Department. I anticipate that the Department will allocate funding for relationship support for the period 2013-15 during autumn/winter 2012. The shape of this funding will depend in part on early findings from evaluation.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have not yet been agreed between the Department and each of the funded organisations. KPIs will be tailored to each organisation to reflect the nature of the grant funded activities so will vary between organisations. I will write to the hon. Member once they are agreed.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60096]

Tim Loughton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Wealden (Charles Hendry), on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 895W.

Schools: Capital Investment

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when the Government's response to the Education Capital Review by Sebastian James will be issued; when he expects schools and local authorities to be able to apply for funding under the scheme; and within what period decisions on such applications are to be made. [61686]

Mr Gibb: The Government took receipt of the independent capital review in April this year and will respond soon.

However, we are already implementing changes that are very much in the spirit of the capital review recommendations, and which will help deliver the buildings and facilities that children need. These include focusing the available funding on providing new school places where they are needed, and on the buildings in the worst condition; getting the best value for money from our existing Building Schools for the Future commitments and other projects; and considering how the school premises regulations can be simplified so as to remove unnecessary burdens and blockages.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58660]

Tim Loughton: The Department currently has one contract with Serco which is for the completion of data collection for the short break and parent participation elements of the Department's Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme. The contract value is £4.95 million.

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish each contract his Department *(a)* holds and *(b)* has held since May 2010 with (i) Serco and (ii) the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services; and what the (A) payment arrangements and (B) key performance targets are in respect of each such contract. [60376]

Tim Loughton: As from January 2011, the Department published all new contracts with a value over £10,000 as part of the Government's transparency agenda. There is no requirement to publish contracts held any earlier than this. The information about contracts can be found at:

http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/

The following table shows the contract title, payment arrangements and key performance targets for the period specified:

Contract/grant title	Payment arrangement	Key performance target
Contract: Serco		
Improving information sharing and management (IISaM) programme (terminated)	In arrears based on consultancy days.	Develop and deliver a procurement strategy to deadline to sustain delivery of ContactPoint ensuring value for money. The programme meets Gateway review requirements which are a standard for project success.
Contract: Serco		
Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme (current)	In arrears to a payments schedule.	Five key targets with linked KPIs for example: Establish national parental network. Delivery of full service offer. Implementing support activity, e.g. quarterly LA cluster groups, learning sets. Implementation of DCATCH (Disabled Children's Access to Childcare) programme.
Contract: Serco		
Support for the Development of children's centres and the modernisation of services for children and their families (completed)	In arrears on delivery of services.	23 key performance targets including for example: Provide focus groups and associated outputs to a schedule agreed with DfE. Transfer of development and improvement process led by Together for Children has been transferred to LA ownership and direction by the end of December 2010 to 90% of Las.
Contract: Serco		
Provision of consultancy Solution services in preparing for the introduction of new business processes and an Oracle Resource Management system (closed)	In arrears based on daily rates.	Conduct an initial peer review to understand the status of delivery to date and then provide consultancy services relating to: MI reports using the new Oracle system. Data model work incorporating organisation and structures, roles and responsibilities and security and access. Procurement to Pay work, guiding the operating model and procurement practices with the systems. Testing of the system.
Contract: Serco		
Contract to support the Child Poverty Focus Services pilot in 10 LAs (completed)	In arrears.	Assist LAs to deliver the agreed number of children's centres so that by March 2010 there is a national total of at least 3,500 designated centres and by end September 2010 all communities in England have access to children's centre services.
Contract: Serco		
Children and Learners Strategic Adviser Service (CLSA) This contract was to set up an integrated advisory service made up of a new cadre of strategic advisers, CLSAs, to lead and co-ordinate high level strategic support and challenge to LAs and Children's Trusts on behalf of DCSF (terminated)	In arrears to a payment schedule.	4 key performance targets with linked KPIs: Deliver an agreed transition plan which establishes the CLSA service by April 2010. Management of the CLSA service. Delivery of improvement support. Assessment of the impact of the CLSA service.
Grant: Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO)		

Contract/grant title	*Payment arrangement*	*Key performance target*
Funding to National Children's Bureau (NCB) for purpose of delivering the business of the C4EO (terminated)	Payments through NCB in advance on receipt of a claim form and subject to delivery of an agreed work plan and progress reports.	8 key performance targets with linked KPIs including for example:
		C4EO established as a key agent in improving outcomes for children.
		Capacity of the sector to improve children's outcomes is increased.
		C4EO influences change in systems to improve children's outcomes.

Youth Services: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department plans to allocate to youth services in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [60832]

Tim Loughton: Funding from central Government to local authorities for local youth services for 2011-12 and beyond is included in an Early Intervention Grant (EIG). In total £2.212 million in 2011-12 and £2.297 million in 2012-13 is being allocated to local authorities in England through the EIG.

In addition, the Department has allocated:

£110 million in 2011-12 and £24 million in 2012-12 to myplace, a national capital programme to build world class youth centres.

£15 million in each of 2011-12 and 2012-13 for youth as part of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant programme.

£350,000 in 2011-12 and £500,000 in 2012-13 to promote and support youth participation in England both nationally and locally. This includes sustaining the activities of the UK Youth Parliament.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report,* column 302W, on the electoral register, whether he has commissioned any further analysis or additional research into the reasons for local and regional variations in electoral registration. [61640]

Mr Harper: The Cabinet Office is funding the Electoral Commission to carry out research to provide a robust, national measure of completeness and accuracy of the registers. The research will also provide some data on different demographic breakdowns. The study will report towards the end of 2011.

The Commission will be conducting further research which will check the registers against the census, and this will provide more up-to-date data on detailed demographic breakdowns. This study is expected to report in 2013.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Stillbirths

1. **Thomas Docherty:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on the registration of stillbirths. [61827]

Mrs May: I have not had any recent discussions with the devolved Administrations on this matter. While the system of stillbirth registration is very similar in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, civil registration is a devolved service and a matter for each of the Administrations.

Police Numbers

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the relationship between numbers of police officers and levels of crime. [61847]

Mrs May: The Home Affairs Select Committee said in February:

"we accept that there is no simple relationship between numbers of police officers and levels of crime".

The Government agree.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of reductions in police numbers. [61850]

Nick Herbert: It is for the chief constable and the police authority of each force to determine the number of police officers that are deployed within the available resource.

Departmental CCTV

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of CCTV cameras. [61835]

James Brokenshire: The Government recognise the importance of CCTV in preventing and detecting crime and supports its use by communities. The Government also acknowledge that continued use of CCTV requires the support of the public and public confidence that systems are being used appropriately.

Accordingly, we intend to introduce a Code of Practice for Surveillance Cameras and appoint a Surveillance Camera Commissioner.

Animal Experiments

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will assess the potential effects on Government policy on the use of animals in scientific experiments of the planned expansion of the Marshall Biosciences beagle breeding facility in East Yorkshire; [60450]

(2) if she will estimate the maximum annual number of beagles to be bred for experimental purposes if the proposed expansion of the Marshall Biosciences beagle breeding facility in East Yorkshire were given a certificate of designation. [60452]

Lynne Featherstone: Under section 7 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, places where animals specified in schedule 2 to the Act are bred for use in regulated procedures, or are kept for supply for use in such procedures or to other designated sources, must be designated as breeding and/or supplying establishments. Applications for designation are considered on a case by case basis according to their merits. It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual applications.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, Great Britain, 2009, what types of procedures were carried out on macaques for the primary purpose of protection of man, animals or the environment. [61352]

Lynne Featherstone: There were 504 procedures started in 2009 in Great Britain using macaques. The available information from statistical returns is published in Table 1 of the annual publication 'Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2009', a copy of which is available from the Library of the House and from the Department's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/science/research-testing-using-animals/

The full description of the primary purpose 'protection of man, animals or the environment' (available from Appendix B Form Notes of the annual publication available from the same website) is as follows:

"Protection of man, animals or environment by toxicological or other safety or environmental evaluation (excluding medical or veterinary products or appliances). This category is intended to cater for toxicological work which is not related either to fundamental research or to the solution of medical or veterinary problems as such. Ecological studies may be included here with the appropriate codes in ROWs 10-12: A codes for toxicological testing or B codes for other investigative studies."

More detailed information on the purpose of the procedures is not collected as part of the annual statistical data collection.

Antisocial Behaviour: Noise

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what instances of abuse by a local authority of its powers in connection with the investigation of neighbour noise complaints have been reported to her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [61347]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has received no such reports about instances of abuse by a local authority.

Criminal Records: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has assessed the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to revise the requirement for personal records held on the Police National Computer to be retained until a person is deemed to have attained 100 years of age. [62141]

Lynne Featherstone: Criminal record and associated personal information is retained on the Police National Computer (PNC) in accordance with guidelines issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers. Such information is normally held until the subject reaches 100 years of age.

It is essential to retain certain personal records on the PNC to assist the police and other agencies in protecting the public. There are currently no plans to legislate to change the existing position. However, the Government's Independent Advisor for Criminality Information Management, Mrs Sunita Mason, is continuing with her review of the criminal records regime and I understand she will be submitting her final report shortly. Further consideration will be given to this issue of retention in developing the Government's response to that report.

Domestic Violence: Females

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to protect women from domestic and sexual violence. [61851]

Lynne Featherstone: In March this year we published a detailed Action Plan on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls. We have already delivered in several areas including a commitment to provide more than £28 million of Home Office funding over four years for local specialist services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment her Department has made of the relative *(a)* toxicity and *(b)* addictivity of (i) heroin, (ii) cocaine, (iii) cannabis, (iv) ecstasy and (v) amphetamines; [61296]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the relative *(a)* toxicity and *(b)* addictivity of cannabis when it is (i) smoked and (ii) inhaled through a vaporizer. [61297]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not undertake research of the nature which the hon. Member is asking. These matters predominantly lie within health policy.

However, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) provides advice to Government on both the health and social harms of drugs, based on all available evidence. Its advice is published on the ACMD's web pages at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/acmd/reports-research/

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the criminalisation of salvia divinorum. [61737]

James Brokenshire: Salvia divinorum is not subject to control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) continue to keep salvia divinorum under review, as part of its work on new psychoactive substances.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' recommendation that foil be exempted from Section 9A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. [61740]

James Brokenshire: The Department received a submission from the Cross-Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Harm Reduction supporting the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' recommendation that foil be exempted from Section 9A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 last December.

The issues raised in the Advisory Council's recommendation relate more widely to the policy on patient health and harm reduction which the Department of Health leads on. My officials are working closely with Department of Health officials to ensure that our joint interests are recognised in the Government's response to the recommendation which will be published soon.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 her Department is responsible; and what European directives for which her Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60695]

James Brokenshire: The following EU directives, for which the Home Office is responsible, were in force on 1 April 2010:

Council Directive 91/477/EEC of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons;

Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin;

Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation;

Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between member states in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof;

Council Directive 2001/40/EC of 28 May 2001 on the mutual recognition of decisions on the expulsion of third country nationals;

Council Directive 2001/51/EC of 28 June 2001 supplementing the provisions of Article 26 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985;

Council Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence;

Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers;

Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents;

Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification;

Commission Directive 2003/101/EC of 3 November 2003 amending Council Directive 92/109/EEC on the manufacture and placing on the market of certain substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and Council Directive 92/109/EEC on the manufacture and placing on the market of certain substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

Council Directive 2003/110/EC of 25 November 2003 on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air;

Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the member states amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC;

Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities;

Council Directive 2004/114/EC of 13 December 2004 on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service;

Council Directive 2004/82/EC of 29 April 2004 on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data;

Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted;

Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services;

Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in member states for granting and withdrawing refugee status;

Council Directive 2005/71/EC of 12 October 2005 on a specific procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research;

Directive 2006/54/EC of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast);

Directive 2006/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the retention of data generated or processed in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or of public communications networks and amending Directive 2002/58/EC;

Council Directive 2008/114/EC of 8 December 2008 on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection;

Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in member states for returning illegally staying third-country nationals;

Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment; and

Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

Two EU directives, for which the Home Office has responsibility, have entered into force since 1 April 2010:

Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes; and

Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

The UK does not participate in all of these directives.

Harassment

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police officers receive on dealing with and processing allegations of stalking and harassment. [61770]

Lynne Featherstone: The National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA) provides support to the Police Service with regard to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 by including relevant training within the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP), ensuring that all new officers have the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding.

The NPIA is currently working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead for stalking and harassment to develop a short module of learning, in consultation with victims, service providers and policy makers. This module will be available over the coming months and will replace or supplement existing content in initial training as well as providing a stand-alone element for all officers and existing staff.

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police officers are required to conduct a risk assessment in respect of individuals who complain about stalking and harassment of a *(a)* non-online and *(b)* online form. [61773]

Lynne Featherstone: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Council accredited the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model to be implemented across all police services in the UK from March 2009 as part of the police response to domestic abuse. Although the use of the DASH model is currently discretionary, the Home Office is actively working with ACPO to encourage all forces to use it.

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were recorded under each section of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in 2010. [61774]

Lynne Featherstone: It is not possible to separately identify crimes relating to the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 from the data that the police send to Home Office Statistics Unit. Offences relating to this Act have been grouped together in Home Office classification 8L 'harassment'. There were 53,029 offences recorded in this classification for 2009-10, the latest year for which data are published. This classification also includes a small number of summary offences of harassment of a person in his home under the Section 42A Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 as added to by Section 126 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

National Crime Agency: Human Trafficking

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the UK Human Trafficking Centre will have in her plans for a National Crime Agency. [62300]

Mrs May: The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is a core part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). The National Crime Agency will bring together the specialist capabilities of SOCA, including the UKHTC and other agencies, into a single body that will drive an effective national response to all forms of organised crime.

Offences against Children

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged for offences relating to child sexual exploitation including grooming in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [61435]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down by offence group only (e.g. sexual offences). From these centrally reported categories, it is not possible to identify specific offences.

The collection does not contain information on subsequent outcomes of arrests.

Police: Accountability

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each person or organisation who has responded to the Government's consultation on its proposals for elected police and crime commissioners. [61786]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* "Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people, Summary of consultation responses and next steps", published in December 2010, listed all respondents to proposals for directly elected police and crime commissioners. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Police: Manpower

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* Cumbria and *(d)* South Lakeland district in each of the last 10 years; [61759]

(2) how many police community support officers there were in South Lakeland district in each of the last five years. [61760]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* Available data are provided in tables A and B.

Table A: Police officer strength in England, north-west region[1], Cumbria and Barrow and Kendal BCU, as at 31 March, 2001 to 2010 and 30 September 2010

	2001[2]	2002[2]	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006[1]	2007[1]	2008[1]	2009[1]	Full-time equivalent[1] 2010[1]	Sept 2010
England	123,476	127,267	131,426	137,105	139,491	139,631	140,032	139,728	141,647	141,631	132,488
North-west region	17,295	17,805	18,040	19,113	19,327	19,215	19,303	19,341	19,618	19,408	18,992
Cumbria	1,048	1,100	1,140	1,222	1,232	1,230	1,244	1,228	1,257	1,214	1,195
Barrow and Kendal BCU[3]	[4]—	[4]—	352	382	378	380	380	315	315	303	[5]—

[1] Full-time equivalent figures on a comparable strength basis (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.
[2] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. They include all officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).
[3] Barrow and Kendal basic command unit (BCU) comprises of the South Lakeland and Barrow-in-Furness Community Safety Partnership (CSPs).
[4] Basic command unit (BCU) data were not collected centrally by the Home Office prior to 2003.
[5] Basic command unit (BCU) figures are not available centrally for September 2010. Police officer breakdown by BCU for 31 March 2011 should be available when 2010-11 statistics are published in July.

Table B: Police community support officer strength[1], Barrow and Kendal basic command unit

	2006	2007	2008	Full-time equivalent[1] 2009	2010
Barrow and Kendal BCU[2]	[3]—	33	33	37	39

[1] These are full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. They include officers on career break or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Barrow and Kendal basic command unit (BCU) comprises of the South Lakeland and Barrow-in-Furness Community Safety Partnership (CSPs).
[3] Information is not available centrally. Basic command unit data for police community support officers were not collected centrally by the Home Office prior to 2007.

Police Powers

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances police officers may search and seize the electronic equipment of persons charged with an offence under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 or related legislation. [61929]

Lynne Featherstone: The offences set out in sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 are indictable offences, for which police have powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to search for and seize electronic equipment as evidence of those offences.

The police can seek a search warrant under section 8 of the 1984 Act by satisfying a magistrate of the conditions set out in section 8(1) of that Act. Where the material sought by the police falls under the definition of 'special procedure material' set out in section 14 of the 1984 Act, a warrant must be obtained from a circuit judge in accordance with the provisions of schedule 1 of that Act.

Police also have the powers to enter and search premises without a search warrant which are subject to the conditions set out in sections 18 and 32 of the 1984 Act.

Primates: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has assessed the merits made of extending the current ban on the import of wild-caught primates to include the first generation offspring of wild-caught primates. [62122]

Lynne Featherstone: Article 10 of European directive 2010/63 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes requires that from dates set out in annex II to the directive, member states shall ensure that all non-human primates listed in that annex may only be used in procedures where they are the offspring of animals bred in captivity or sourced from self-sustaining colonies. Under article 10, the European Commission must carry out a feasibility study by 10 November 2017 to confirm or amend the dates in annex II. The United Kingdom contribution to the feasibility study will be considered at the appropriate time when consulted by the Commission. Directive 2010/63/EU must be implemented by member states from 1 January 2013.

Article 10 also requires that animals of all species of non-human primates used in scientific procedures must be purpose bred unless there is justification for the use of wild caught animals. The United Kingdom has operated a similar policy since 1995 and has not authorised the first time use of wild caught primates for more than 10 years.

Sexual Offences

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual assaults *(a)* were reported to the police and *(b)* resulted in a conviction in (i) England, (ii) the North West, (iii) Cumbria and (iv) South Lakeland district in each of the last 10 years. [61634]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* Data on police recorded offences of sexual assault are collected by the Home Office. Due to recording changes, the data are not comparable across the period requested.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and data are not comparable before and after this date. Additionally, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 was introduced in May 2004 and this altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. The data are shown separately for 2000-01 to 2001-02 and for 2002-03 to 2009-10 in Tables A and B respectively.

Data on reported sexual assaults which resulted in convictions are not available as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. These data are published on a calendar year basis and

are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. As such, convictions data cannot be directly compared to police recorded crime data.

Convictions data are based on the number of offenders and have been provided by the Ministry of Justice in Table C. Data are provided for the number of defendants found guilty of sexual assault in England, the north-west and Cumbria police force area for 2000 to 2010. Information on convictions is not collated below police force area centrally by the Ministry of Justice. The data are a further breakdown of those published in the Criminal Statistics, Supplementary Volumes for England and Wales for the years 2000 to 2010. Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

The Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age of the defendant, their gender, the police force area and the court where the proceedings took place as well as the offence and statute for the offence.

Table A: Rape and sexual assault offences recorded in England, 2000-01 to 2001-02

	2000-01	*2001-02*[1]
South Lakeland local authority		
Rape of a female	6	7
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—
Rape of a male	0	1
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—
Total rape offences	6	8
Indecent assault on a male	5	0
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	—	—
Indecent assault on a female	17	20
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	—	—
Total sexual assault offences	22	20
Total rape and sexual assault offences	28	28
Cumbria police force area		
Rape of a female	37	44
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—
Rape of a male	0	3
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—
Total rape offences	37	47
Indecent assault on a male	15	8
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	—	—
Indecent assault on a female	98	126
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	—	—
Total sexual assault offences	113	134
Total rape and sexual assault offences	150	181

Table A: Rape and sexual assault offences recorded in England, 2000-01 to 2001-02

	2000-01	2001-02[1]
North West region		
Rape of a female	1,021	1,069
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—
Rape of a male	81	103
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—
Total rape offences	1,102	1,172
Indecent assault on a male	486	431
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	—	—
Indecent assault on a female	2,517	2,733
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	—	—
Total sexual assault offences	3,003	3,164
Total rape and sexual assault offences	4,105	4,336
England		
Rape of a female	7,603	8,632
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—
Rape of a male	630	693
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—
Total rape offences	8,233	9,325
Indecent assault on a male	3,355	3,426
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	—	—
Indecent assault on a female	19,370	20,887
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	—	—
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	—	—
Total sexual assault offences	22,725	24,313
Total rape and sexual assault offences	30,958	33,638

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

Table B: Sexual assault offences recorded in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05[2]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[3]
South Lakeland local authority								
Rape of a female	9	14	3	1	0	2	0	—
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—	6	6	6	4	1	12
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—	4	4	1	6	2	4
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rape of a male	1	3	1	1	1	0	1	—

Table B: Sexual assault offences recorded in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05[2]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[2]
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—	0	0	1	0	2	0
Total rape offences	10	17	14	12	10	14	6	21
Indecent assault on a male	5	9	4	0	0	0	0	—
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	—	—	3	5	3	2	0	0
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	—	—	0	3	1	0	2	4
Indecent assault on a female	18	28	23	1	0	0	0	—
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	—	—	6	16	23	21	15	11
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	—	—	4	5	1	5	5	6
Total sexual assault offences	23	37	40	30	28	28	22	21
Total rape and sexual assault offences	33	54	54	42	38	42	28	42
Cumbria police force area								
Rape of a female	61	71	29	4	3	4	1	—
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—	28	46	36	51	34	66
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—	13	18	19	21	21	22
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—	3	5	5	2	13	15
Rape of a male	5	3	5	4	7	3	2	—
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—	1	0	0	0	0	3
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—	0	0	3	0	4	4
Total rape offences	66	74	79	77	73	81	75	112
Indecent assault on a male[3]	19	27	12	0	1	4	0	—
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	12	15	9	15	9	7
Sexual assault on a male child under 13[3]	—	—	6	17	6	7	7	11
Indecent assault on a female[3]	120	158	129	29	0	0	0	—
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	19	76	117	124	122	101
Sexual assault on a female child under 13[3]	—	—	13	49	29	38	36	30
Total sexual assault offences	139	185	191	186	162	188	174	149
Total rape and sexual assault offences	205	259	270	263	235	269	249	261
North West region								
Rape of a female	1,377	1,634	125	1	1	5	23	—
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—	977	1,077	960	902	849	982
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—	428	432	386	331	342	358
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—	130	154	164	155	210	245
Rape of a male	103	123	9	4	7	4	4	—
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—	85	61	57	42	37	50
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—	42	40	44	41	26	37
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—	38	37	47	42	43	68
Total rape offences	1,480	1,757	1,834	1,804	1,666	1,522	1,534	1,740
Indecent assault on a male[3]	479	550	138	6	0	12	6	—
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	177	178	214	190	125	129
Sexual assault on a male child under 13[3]	—	—	190	220	176	160	134	126
Indecent assault on a female[3]	3,123	3,483	855	48	2	60	38	—

Table B: Sexual assault offences recorded in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2009-10

	2002-03[1]	2003-04	2004-05[2]	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10[2]
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	1,721	2,084	1,966	1,785	1,723	1,749
Sexual assault on a female child under 13[3]	—	—	612	713	650	550	480	526
Total sexual assault offences	3,602	4,033	3,693	3,249	3,008	2,757	2,506	2,530
Total rape and sexual assault offences	5,082	5,790	5,527	5,053	4,674	4,279	4,040	4,270
England								
Rape of a female	10,973	11,868	655	56	24	145	167	—
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	—	—	7,897	8,376	7,869	7,228	7,383	8,700
Rape of a female child under 16	—	—	2,846	3,009	2,699	2,277	2,392	2,780
Rape of a female child under 13	—	—	922	1,329	1,453	1,361	1,533	1,830
Rape of a male	814	864	75	22	18	10	22	—
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	—	—	428	414	395	318	303	357
Rape of a male child under 16	—	—	305	273	243	222	207	219
Rape of a male child under 13	—	—	285	347	428	394	374	524
Total rape offences	11,787	12,732	13,413	13,826	13,129	11,955	12,381	14,410
Indecent assault on a male[3]	3,915	3,907	981	325	76	205	149	—
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	1,222	1,341	1,348	1,238	1,078	1,114
Sexual assault on a male child under 13[3]	—	—	1,153	1,316	1,188	1,063	942	1,015
Indecent assault on a female[3]	23,735	25,565	4,908	1,010	262	742	554	—
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over[3]	—	—	13,973	16,070	15,736	14,616	14,358	14,636
Sexual assault on a female child under 13[3]	—	—	4,115	4,438	4,042	3,752	3,441	3,949
Total sexual assault offences	27,650	29,472	26,382	24,500	22,652	21,616	20,522	20,714
Total rape and sexual assault offences	39,437	42,204	39,795	38,326	35,781	33,571	32,903	35,124

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002-03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.
[2] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.
[3] Prior to 2009-10, a small number of offences continued to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003. While these may have been legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so any changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Table C: Defendants found guilty of sexual assault[1,2] and rape[1,3] at all courts by region, 2000-10

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[4]	2009[5]	2010
Defendants found guilty of sexual assault											
Cumbria	21	28	30	32	15	29	20	20	20	24	24
North West	398	403	404	356	374	349	344	348	321	294	341
England	2,434	2,355	2,418	2,328	2,467	2,108	1,965	2,015	1,999	1,963	2,281
Defendants found guilty of rape											
Cumbria	3	6	6	8	11	7	6	9	4	4	10
North West	84	103	86	97	104	118	131	116	153	149	152
England	557	547	607	634	707	761	832	823	878	946	1,004

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Sexual assault includes indecent assault from offences prior to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which introduced a large number of new offences which resulted in changes in the coverage of many of the offence classes shown in this table. As a result many of the figures for 2004 onwards are not comparable with those before.
[3] Rape includes attempted rape.
[4] Excludes convictions data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
[5] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

WORK AND PENSIONS

A New Approach to Child Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to paragraph 1.10 of his Department's publication A New Approach to Child Poverty, how many children in each *(a)* region and *(b)* constituency live in workless households. [60438]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

(a) Data on the number of children living in workless households by region from the Office for National Statistics' "Work and Worklessness among Households 2010" Statistical Bulletin are available here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14977

Please refer to Table 3(iii). This information is sourced from the Household Labour Force Survey and is available for the April-June quarter only each year from 1997 to 2010.

(b) This information has been placed in the Library.

This information is sourced from the Annual Population Survey, January-December 2009.

Bread: Asthma

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 91W, on bread: asthma, what the statistical data, other than the Surveillance of Work-Related Occupational Respiratory Disease scheme and the Occupational Physicians Reporting Activity scheme, are to which the answer refers. [61047]

Chris Grayling: The other statistical data sources to which the earlier answer refers are:

1. The Self-Reported Work-Related Illness (SWI) survey—a series of questions about occupational injury and disease included annually within the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Based on the most recent SWI survey the number of new cases of "breathing and lung problems" caused or made worse by work during 2009-10 was estimated to be between 9,000 and 23,000 and a proportion of these cases are likely to be consistent with symptoms of occupational asthma.

2. The Health and Occupation Reporting Network General Practitioner scheme (THOR GP) scheme—in which a sample of GPs record all new cases of occupational disease they see. The estimated annual incidence of work-related respiratory disease according to THOR was approximately 10,000 new cases per year during 2007-09. Information about the disease types suggests a substantial proportion of these will relate to occupational asthma.

The data on respiratory disease provided by SWI and THOR GP enable the overall scale of these diseases to be estimated. It is not possible for the data to be broken down into detailed occupation or industry group because of the small number of actual cases reported by these data sources. Therefore, any estimates by industry group would be unreliable.

Carers

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to undertake an equality impact assessment on the effect on carers of the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [61500]

Maria Miller: The proposals in the Bill impact on a wide variety of groups in different ways. Where a policy has a particular impact on carers the impacts of this will be considered as part of the assessment for that policy.

Child Maintenance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the capability of *(a)* children's centre workers, *(b)* GPs, *(c)* teachers and *(d)* Jobcentre Plus staff to provide support services to help parents make maintenance arrangements on separation; and if he will make a statement. [60758]

Maria Miller: A central part of the vision set out in the Green Paper "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" is to make it easier for parents to access the support already available to deal with the effects of separation in a way that recognises their ongoing responsibilities as parents.

During the Green Paper consultation, we have been talking to experts in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) who understand families' needs, including among others the Centre for Separated Families, Relate, and Gingerbread, and they tell us that local support itself could be delivered in a more integrated fashion. We will continue to work with the sector to understand how best to facilitate more joined-up services.

We know from our discussions with VCS organisations that when families encounter problems it is often trusted professionals that parents turn to first. VCS have cited examples such as Sure Start children's centre workers and GPs, though of course the range of professionals who parents may approach first could be wider.

We want to make it easier for the professionals that separating parents first approach to know what support is available and direct parents to that support. We will continue to work with colleagues in the Department for Education and other Government Departments to understand how this would work in practice, recognising the need to avoid placing undue burdens on professionals who are already working hard to support families in a range of different ways.

We need to get this right for the long-term, to take forward the reform of the child maintenance system begun by the previous Government, following the recommendations of Sir David Henshaw, and set the system in the context of the range of support parents may need when they separate.

We aim to publish the Government's response to the consultation shortly.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60711]

Chris Grayling: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

Departments are engaging with their stakeholders on issues relating to the employment-law review in accordance with their standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with *(a)* companies contracted to deliver the Work Programme and *(b)* trade unions representing affected staff on the application of the provisions of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations to staff transferring from his Department to employment by such companies. [62468]

Chris Grayling: No staff from the Department for Work and Pensions are transferring to Work Programme contractors as there has been no transfer of any undertaking from the Department to the Work Programme, so there is no question of TUPE regulations applying.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the transition to the Work Programme on disabled staff previously employed on welfare to work programmes in his Department. [62473]

Chris Grayling: The Department expects contractors delivering welfare to work programmes to fulfil their statutory obligations, including equal treatment under TUPE (the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) and practical support for disabled employees, for example specialist equipment and reasonable adjustments. Therefore the Department does not anticipate that there will be a differential impact on disabled staff.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the provisions of Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations are not to be applied to staff of his Department transferring from the Pathways to Work programme to Work programme contractors. [62474]

Chris Grayling: There has been no transfer of any undertaking from the Department for Work and Pensions to the Work programme and no staff are transferring to Work programme contractors, so there is no question of TUPE regulations applying.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61680]

Chris Grayling: DWP have a number of requirements in respect of behavioural standards which third party providers have to adhere to in the delivery of contracted services and products. These requirements provide contractors with clear expectations relating to the contract performance in that:

In all cases, contractors are required to perform their obligations under any Department contract in accordance with the law, statutory regulations, Government and departmental policies and good industry practice;

Contractors are responsible for ensuring their staff are not claiming social security benefit, where payment is precluded due to earnings, and those who are not EC nationals are legally entitled to be resident in the United Kingdom and have a work permit. The contractor will comply with staff vetting procedures for all staff; these must be undertaken prior to contract start. They will ensure Criminal Records Bureau checks will be completed for relevant staff where necessary;

Contractors must ensure there are effective anti-fraud control measures in place for both themselves and their subcontractors. The systems and processes look to ensure fraud is prevented and that it will be detected early if it does occur;

Contractors are required to have policies and delivery plans (including staff training) in place, subject to Department review, relating to diversity and equality, sustainable development, and security requirements;

Contractors need to comply with quality standards and need to maintain accreditation with the relevant quality standards authorisation body, where required by the contract. Where this is not the case, the contractors will deliver the provision to agreed contractual standards; and

Contractors need to ensure that all staff supplying the Department do so with all due skill, care and diligence and need to possess such qualifications, skills and experience as are necessary for the proper supply of the services.

The Department conducts a formal review of the obligations and performance of contracts at least annually. During this review, a performance report is agreed and contractors are required to undertake remedial activities, if required.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60491]

Chris Grayling: The regulations which have been revoked in the period between 1 March and 31 May 2011 are listed the following table. The Department publishes impact assessments for regulation that has a benefit to business, civil society organisations or the public sector and copies of these are placed in the Library of the House.

Instrument number	*Title*	*Revoked by*	*Laid*	*In force from*
SI 2005/1610	Pension Protection Fund (Payments to meet Investment Costs) regulations 2005	SI 2011/671 Pension Protection Fund (Prescribed Payments and Investment Costs—Amendment) Regulations 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
SI 2009/607	Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2009	SI 2011/830 Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2011	21 March 2011	11 April 2011

Instrument number	Title	Revoked by	Laid	In force from
SI 2010/826	Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2010	SI 2011/830 Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2011	21 March 2011	11 April 2011

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the savings in real terms which will accrue from the withdrawal of mobility allowance from persons in residential care in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [61499]

Maria Miller: The measure to remove the mobility component of disabled living allowance from people in residential care announced in the spending review was estimated to save the tax payer around £140 million each year in real terms.

After listening to the strong concerns raised by individuals and organisations the Government made clear that they will not remove the mobility component from people in residential care in 2012. Instead, the needs of care home residents will be considered as part of the wider reform of disability living allowance and the implementation of personal independence payments from April 2013.

Disability: Children

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the conclusions and recommendations of the report, Setting the Scene for Scotland's Disabled Children. [37757]

Maria Miller: We welcome this report, which provides a significant addition to the evidence base on disabled children in Scotland.

You may be interested in results from the recently published, Life Opportunities Survey, by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Office for Disability Issues. This explores the prevalence of disabled adults and children across Great Britain and the extent of social barriers they face in different areas of life. Details of the report can be found on the ODI website:

www.odi.gov.uk/los

Education: Training

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether individuals mandated to undertake education and training as part of skills conditionality proposals will potentially be liable for higher-level sanctions. [61363]

Chris Grayling: From 1 August 2011, jobseeker's allowance claimants who fail to undertake education or training without good cause when required to do so will lose all of their benefit or training allowance for a fixed period of two, four or up to 26 weeks. Employment and support allowance claimants in the work-related activity group who fail to undertake education or training without good cause when required to do so will lose 50% of the work-related activity component for the first four weeks and then 100% of the component thereafter until they meet the requirements of the mandatory referral to education or training.

The Welfare Reform Bill introduces a clearer sanctions structure which will apply across all working-age benefits. This will have different levels, including a higher level for the most serious failures. Failures to undertake mandatory education or training will not be sanctioned at the higher level. Where jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance claimants do not have good reason for failing to accept a mandatory referral to education or training, they will receive a lower-level sanction, of which there will be two components: an open -ended period which will end when a claimant re-engages, followed by a fixed period of one, two or four weeks.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals who will receive contributory employment and support allowance *(a)* in the work-related activity group and *(b)* in the assessment phase, will have claims which (i) will not have a duration of more than 365 days on any day in each financial year between 2011-12 and 2015-16 and (ii) will have a duration of 366 days or more on at least one day during each such year. [58743]

Chris Grayling *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The information requested is in the following table. This shows the Department's forecast of the number of people receiving contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) with durations of 365 days or less, or greater than 365 days, in any day of each financial year. This is calculated by adding the case load at the end of the financial year with the number of claimants who have ceased claiming contributory ESA during the year.

For those who leave the contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60% are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA.

There will be some people leaving the benefit because their health improves; others health will deteriorate and they will move from the WRAG into the support group. Those claimants that remain in the WRAG will include claimants whose conditions fluctuate or who have developed other functional impairments.

ESA phase	Claim duration	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Assessment phase	365 days or less	323,200	383,600	390,200	365,800	363,400

ESA phase	Claim duration	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	Greater than 365 days	18,800	0	0	0	0
Work-related activity group	365 days or less	191,200	385,700	428,600	305,500	119,400
	Greater than 365 days	124,300	0	0	0	0

The information is consistent with the Budget 2011 forecasts and rounded to the nearest 100 claimants.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which organisations and charities representing people with disabilities he has met to discuss his proposals to limit the payment of contributory employment and support allowance to one year; and if he will make a statement. [60917]

Chris Grayling: The Department values the views of disability groups and we engage in ongoing and helpful dialogue both at ministerial and official level with a number of group representatives.

Since this measure was announced as part of the spending review in October, both Ministers and officials have met with representatives from organisations representing disabled people, such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Disability Alliance, Citizens Advice, Mind and Scope.

The Department is committed to engaging with organisations such as these on an ongoing basis as part of our wider consultation on the implications of our proposals for welfare reform, to ensure that the social security system supports disabled people and those with health conditions in the most sensitive, fair and appropriate way.

Employment Schemes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an equality impact assessment has been undertaken on the introduction of the Work Programme. [62577]

Chris Grayling: An equality impact assessment for the design of Work Programme was conducted and included as part of the equality impact assessment for the overall Employment, Skills and Enterprise regulations, which cover the Work Programme; this has been published on the DWP website.

An equality impact assessment for the delivery of the Work Programme will be published before the summer recess.

Employment Support (Disabled People)

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 45WS, on employment support (disabled people), what plans he has to consult employees of Remploy in relation to the recommendations of the Sayce review; and if he will make a statement. [60378]

Maria Miller: The independent report by Liz Sayce, 'Getting in, staying in and getting on', was published on 9 June 2011. The report contains a range of specific recommendations, including recommendations on Remploy. The Government will issue their response to this report shortly and will consult in full on any recommendations to be taken forward. These consultations will include any individuals or organisations affected by any proposed changes.

Further to this, I already have regular dialogue with Remploy management and unions.

Employment: Hearing Impairment

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for deaf and hard of hearing people to help them enter employment; and if he will make a statement. [61431]

Maria Miller: The Department is implementing welfare to work reforms which aim to fight poverty, support the most vulnerable and help people, including deaf and hard of hearing people, to break any cycle of benefit dependency and to find employment.

Jobcentre Plus is committed to helping disabled people find a suitable, sustainable job in their local area through the support it delivers through its network of advisers. Advisers now have more responsibility to assess individuals' needs within local labour markets and to offer them the support they think is most appropriate, including a number of 'Get Britain Working' measures, designed to provide help for those seeking work or to move into self employment. The exact nature and range of help on offer, delivered in conjunction with local and national partner organisations, will vary from area to area as local managers have the discretion to deliver the services that they believe will help people in their area to secure work the most.

In addition, disability employment advisers can identify suitable job opportunities and act as an advocate for customers with employers, if appropriate. They will also aim to identify work solutions that will overcome or minimise difficulties relating to a customer's disability and can signpost customers and their employers to the Access to Work Service. Jobcentre Plus also has specialist programmes that help disabled people move into paid work, such as Residential Training and Work Choice. Disability employment advisers also use the professional expertise of work psychologists specialising in working with disabled people.

Underpinning 'Get Britain Working' is the introduction of the Work Programme which was launched on 1 June. The Work Programme will provide a single, personalised, welfare to work programme for all customer groups. It will be delivered through a combination of contracted employment provision via private, public and voluntary sectors as well as Jobcentre Plus led service delivery. The Work Programme will simplify the complex array of existing employment programmes and deliver coherent, integrated support, more capable of dealing with complex

and overlapping barriers to work, providing personalised help for people who find themselves out of work regardless of the benefit they claim. Disability employment advisers will also be able to refer claimants to Work Programme where appropriate.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to prevent fraudulent claims by EU migrant workers claiming benefits in the UK. [60052]

Chris Grayling: EU nationals who have worked and paid sufficient national insurance contributions, and meet the other conditions of entitlement, may be entitled to contributory benefits such as jobseeker's allowance. Those who have not paid sufficient contributions may claim income-related benefits providing they satisfy the habitual residence test and meet the other conditions of entitlement. EU nationals may also be entitled to child benefit and tax credits if, among the usual conditions, they are physically present in the UK, ordinarily resident in the UK, and have a right to reside in the UK.

Robust gateway checks are already in place to prevent national insurance numbers (NINOs) being used fraudulently for the purpose of abusing the benefit system. For example, where the Department identifies that a NINO has been used for attempted benefit fraud or is aware that it may be vulnerable to fraudulent use, the relevant account is annotated accordingly on our systems and any subsequent benefit claim using that NINO would automatically be subjected to close scrutiny and, if appropriate, be referred to the Department's Fraud Investigation Service.

In addition to this, robust identity verification checks are in place to prevent fraudsters acquiring NINOs. During 2010-11, Jobcentre Plus refused to allocate 50,000 NINOs as the applicants had failed to meet one or more of the checks we have in place.

In 2009, following intelligence from Jobcentre Plus staff, DWP developed and introduced further checks to strengthen the NINO allocation process to counter fraud where individuals, often from countries within the EU, are trafficked into the UK by criminals for the purpose of fraudulently accessing the benefit and tax credits systems.

The Department keeps its benefit gateway checks under constant review and modifies them as necessary to ensure that only those who are entitled to social security benefits are receiving them.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 191-92W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the implications for immigration policy of his policy on habitual residency. [62057]

Chris Grayling: Ministers and officials of the Department for Work and Pensions and the Home Office have regular discussion on matters of mutual interest, including the habitual residence test.

The test is designed to prevent 'benefit tourism' by people who come here from abroad and immediately claim benefits, its purpose is to ensure that income-related benefits are paid to people with reasonably close ties to the UK and an intention to settle here.

Future Jobs Fund

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect of the cancellation of the Future Jobs Fund on the projections for unemployment made by the Office for Budget Responsibility in June 2010. [61761]

Chris Grayling: The Department has made no such estimates.

Habitual Residence

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 192-93W, on habitual residence, who the decision makers are in respect of determining habitual residence; how many determinations were made in the latest period for which figures are available; what the cost to the public purse was of making such determinations; in which locations the determinations were made; and whether the outcome of a determination may be challenged. [62042]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on the habitual residence test are made by specialist Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service decision makers based in all benefit delivery offices and pension centres which process claims. In addition, there are two centralised specialist teams making habitual residence decisions for EEA nationals. The Jobcentre Plus team is part of Aberdeen benefit centre and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service team is based in the pension centre in Newcastle.

For the 12-month period from June 2010 to May 2011, there were 64,215 habitual residence decisions.

Information about costs for making a decision on the habitual residence test is not available.

All decisions made by a decision maker can be appealed. This includes habitual residence decisions.

Health and Safety Executive: Sonae

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which dates the Health and Safety Executive inspected the Sonae factory in Kirkby in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such visit was. [61237]

Chris Grayling: In the calendar years 2001 to 2010, the Health and Safety Executive has carried out inspections at the Sonae factory on the following dates:

11 July 2002; 4 October 2002; 15 October 2002; 8 February 2005; 8 April 2009 (with follow-up visit on 4 May 2009); 14 May 2009 and 26 March 2010.

HSE has also carried out an audit of the company, which involved visiting the site on 7 September 2007, 29 October 2007 and 13 March 2008.

HSE records do not include sufficient data to calculate the cost of each of these inspections.

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on which dates the Health and Safety Executive initiated an investigation into the Sonae factory at Kirkby in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost was of each such investigation. [61238]

Chris Grayling: In the calendar years 2001 to 2010, the Health and Safety Executive has initiated 11 on-site investigations into incidents at the Sonae factory in Kirkby. These were initiated on:

27 March 2001;

4 September 2001;

1 June 2002;

17 June 2002;

20 November 2002;

1 March 2007;

9 May 2007;

15 November 2007;

27 August 2007;

10 November 2007;

27 August 2008;

10 November 2009; and

7 December 2010.

In addition, an investigation was initiated on 10 June 2011 into a fire that broke out earlier that same day.

HSE records do not include sufficient data to calculate the cost of each of these investigations. However, three of these investigations resulted in prosecution action; for these cases the costs of investigation and enforcement were applied for through the courts. For these three cases, costs were applied for, and awarded, as follows:

Investigation initiated 27 March 2001—costs applied for £9,284, partial costs of £6,417.20 awarded.

Investigation initiated 1 June 2002—costs applied for £77,046.08, full costs awarded.

Investigation initiated 17 June 2002—costs applied for £13,099.62, full costs awarded.

Hewlett Packard

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of Hewlett Packard's application to offshore jobs from the application maintenance and support element of the Adams 2 contract it holds with his Department; how many jobs the company proposes to transfer overseas; and if he will assess the likely impact on benefit claimant rates in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* England if the application were granted. [61561]

Chris Grayling: The Department is reviewing plans to increase the amount of work delivered by HP from non-UK locations and this review has not yet been concluded. The exact location and number of jobs needed by HP to deliver the required services and its impact on their staff in the UK is a matter for HP to determine. Therefore the impact on benefit claims as a direct consequence cannot yet be assessed.

Jobcentre Plus

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to officials in Jobcentre Plus on targets for ending recipient's entitlement to claim benefits. [60340]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and for Pensions has asked me to reply to your question regarding the guidance his Department provides to officials in Jobcentre Plus on targets for ending recipient's entitlement to claim benefits. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is responsible for ensuring Jobseekers Allowance is paid to those customers who are eligible to receive it. Jobseekers are required to comply with certain conditions of entitlement, for example, being available for and actively seeking employment. Where a person unreasonably causes or prolongs their own unemployment, they may be subject to a sanction where their benefit is withheld for a set period.

Jobcentre Plus guidance to officials is clear that there is no right or wrong level of sanction referrals an office should make, and that a sanction is only applied where people have not adhered to their jobseeker obligations. Jobcentre Plus has neither targets, nor benchmarks, for sanctions in the current year.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus compiles any performance ranking of its offices. [60366]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether Jobcentre Plus compile any performance ranking of its offices. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Under the new Performance Management Framework, introduced in April 2011, managers in Jobcentre Plus use a range of metrics to manage performance across the business.

At all management levels, performance management activity focuses on performance variation to drive continuous improvement. We look at site by site performance as well as comparisons between Groups and this enables us to share best practice as well as focusing on relative under performance.

Whilst Jobcentres are not ranked in terms of top-to-bottom performers, as different labour market conditions apply, Jobcentre Plus does rank its benefit and contact centres for internal purposes. Senior Management do keep the performance under regular review to ensure we understand variations in performance and continuously improve our impact and our services to the customer.

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any Jobcentre Plus services provided by centres in *(a)* Ayr, *(b)* Arbroath and *(c)* Clydebank will be moved outside Scotland when those centres close. [60361]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether any Jobcentre Plus services provided by centres in (a) Ayr (b) Arbroath and (c) Clydebank will be moved outside

Scotland when those centres close. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres (including Clydebank Contact Centre) are part of a virtual network. Within this network, calls are directed to the next available advisor with the appropriate skills to answer customers' enquiries. Therefore the transfer of services will occur via the virtual network, and we cannot confirm which calls will therefore be routed to other Scottish Centres.

Internally Jobcentre Plus is currently developing site by site plans for the movement of benefit work from the sites affected by our site rationalisation plans that were announced on 13th May which include Ayr and Arbroath. As yet, no decisions have been made on work movements, either within Scotland, or to other areas of Great Britain.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at which locations in Scotland Jobcentre Plus officials share office accommodation with other Government agencies. [60364]

Chris Grayling: As the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking at which locations in Scotland Jobcentre Plus officials share office accommodation with other Government Departments and their Executive Agencies. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus in Scotland currently shares many of its offices across the country with other UK Government Departments including: DWP's Pensions Disability and Carers Service; Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs; The Identity and Passport Service and many others. We also share accommodation with some agencies of the Scottish Government, for example Skills Development Scotland. I have attached a complete list

at Annex 1.

Under the terms of the Spending Review, DWP, including Jobcentre Plus, is being asked to make significant efficiencies in its work to meet a 26 per cent reduction in real terms from its core budget. To help achieve the level of efficiencies required we will be reviewing our network of Jobcentres to see if there are further opportunities for outreach or co-location, and scope for rationalisation of Jobcentres whilst retaining a local presence. Once we have developed our proposals we will share these with local stakeholders, including MPs and MSPs, as part of our normal consultation arrangements for service delivery.

Annex 1: Locations where Jobcentre Plus in Scotland share premises with other Government Departments and their Executive Agencies

Dundee Contact Centre
Paisley Contact Centre
Aberdeen Benefit Centre
Arbroath Benefit Centre
Greenock Benefit Centre
Glasgow Northgate Benefit Centre
Alexandria Jobcentre
Bellshill Jobcentre
Campbeltown Jobcentre
Dumfries Jobcentre
Dunfermline Jobcentre
Dunoon Jobcentre
Elgin Jobcentre
Fort William Jobcentre
Galashiels Jobcentre
Govan Jobcentre
Hamilton Jobcentre
Hawick Jobcentre
Helensburgh Jobcentre
Inverness Jobcentre
Kirkwall Jobcentre
Lerwick Jobcentre
Livingston Jobcentre
Newlands Jobcentre
Oban Jobcentre
Perth Jobcentre
Peterhead Jobcentre
Port Glasgow Jobcentre
Saltcoats Jobcentre
Shettleston Jobcentre
Stirling Jobcentre
Stranraer Jobcentre
Wick Jobcentre.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance his Department is offering to officials in Jobcentre Plus following the decision to close centres in Scotland. [60367]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what (a) support and (b) guidance his Department is offering to officials in Jobcentre Plus following the decision to close centres in Scotland. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I realise that the announcements which we made on 13th May regarding the closure of 22 benefit and contact centres will be unsettling to all staff. The line managers of staff at affected centres are available to support them, both now and throughout the next few months. Our immediate priority is to understand individual circumstances, and so we have just completed initial one-to-one discussions between the individuals and their line managers to discuss the closures and how it might affect them and to talk about their personal circumstances. We expect to have further one-to-one discussions throughout the period until closure.

Managers will also be able to answer or deal with any questions or concerns that staff may have. Where the manager does not have the necessary information we have introduced an issues escalation process.

In addition, staff who are union members may also want to speak to their Trade Union representative. We did arrange for a Trade Union representative to be on site on 13th May who took time to talk to members of staff. Since then, we have also allowed additional facility time for members of the PCS Group Executive Committee to attend sites to discuss the closures with staff.

If staff would prefer to speak with someone from outside the Department, our Employee Assistance provider, Right Corecare, is available 24 hours a day. Our contract with Right Corecare provides unlimited confidential access to their helplines on 0800 652 3304.

In addition, managers will have regular communications with staff and will keep them informed of any developments as they occur. We will also use the full range of our existing communications channels, including our intranet pages and events such as Your Call, which is a live audio conference event where people in Jobcentre Plus can speak directly to me and my Jobcentre Plus Board members to get answers to their questions.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of officials at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr. [60370]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether his Department plans any compulsory redundancies in respect of officials at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

DWP will always take all possible steps, including redeploying people into other jobs, to avoid compulsory redundancy. The Department has an excellent track record in securing alternative roles for its people and would not want to use public money for redundancy schemes unless absolutely necessary. Our plans to enlarge some sites, and our robust workforce planning and workforce management arrangements will all help us towards avoiding a situation where compulsory redundancy is necessary. However, we cannot guarantee this.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr he plans to redeploy to other locations. [60372]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many officials at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr he plans to redeploy to other locations. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The 43 staff in Ayr will all receive an offer of redeployment within Jobcentre Plus, either locally or further afield. If those opportunities are further away we will help staff with travel costs. I cannot provide you with a firm estimate of the number of staff who will take up this offer of redeployment until we have completed further one to one discussions with every individual member of staff, which will allow us to understand their personal circumstances.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many clients were dealt with at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr in each of the last five years. [60373]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many clients have been dealt with at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Please see below the information for Ayr Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) Centre.

The information is only available from April 2008.

Claims received

	Performance year		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Ayr IIDB	3,757	7,355	4,066

Claims processed

	Performance year		
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Ayr IIDB	3,975	7,287	4,571

Live load figures

	Performance year		
	December 2008	*December 2009*	*December 2010*
Ayr IIDB	34,001	33,702	34,164

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials were employed at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr in each of the last six years. [60374]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many officials were employed at the Jobcentre Plus centre in Ayr in each of the last six years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Ayr Benefit Centre employed:

49 staff (42.11 whole time equivalent) in March 2009;

44 staff (37.52 whole time equivalent) in March 2010; and

43 staff (36.29 whole time equivalent) in March 2011.

The information is only available from April 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when a substantive reply will be sent to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 4 May 2011 to the Child Support Agency, reference CSA/0262226. [62534]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when a substantive reply will be sent to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 4 May 2011 to the Child Support Agency reference CSA/0262226. [62534]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Older Workers

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to promote active ageing in employment. [61778]

Steve Webb: Older workers are hugely important to our labour force and economy. Most have years of experience and knowledge to offer to employers and co-workers. Though employers' attitudes are changing, too many still believe in out-of-date age stereotypes concerning training, health and performance.

Through our Age Positive initiative, we are working with key business leaders to drive forward sustained improvements in the employment, training and retention of older workers by advising employers about the business benefits of investing in a mixed aged work force and developing flexible work and retirement opportunities. Information for all employers is given on:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/agepositive

The Government developed guidance and training to help employers manage their work forces without the use of compulsory retirement ages following regulations this year to phase out the Default Retirement Age. Information is given on:

www.acas.org.uk

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to promote events to raise awareness among *(a)* employers and *(b)* the general public of the need for greater intergenerational solidarity within an ageing workforce. [61779]

Steve Webb: We are working now with key business sector leaders to drive forward sustained improvements in the employment, training and retention of older workers as part of a mixed age workforce. We are providing sector leaders with expert resource to support employers' understanding about the business benefits of investing in older workers and how they might adopt effective age management practices including flexible work and flexible retirement opportunities. Information for all employers is given on:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/agepositive

The ACAS website:

www.acas.org.uk

gives information about planned training events to help employers manage their workforces without the use of compulsory retirement ages following regulations this year to phase out the Default Retirement Age.

We are currently inviting our partners, local authorities and community groups to organise events across the country in support of the 5th anniversary of UK Older People's Day, which takes place this year on 1 October. It will publicise and celebrate the huge contribution that older people make to our society and economy and help to tackle outdated and negative stereotypes. Additionally, the Government's Ageing Well programme is working with partners on a programme that gives councils a key opportunity to develop and promote intergenerational practice.

Pensions: Young People

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effects of raising the state pension age on access to employment for young people. [61947]

Steve Webb: No assessment of the employment effects on younger people have been made.

However we believe that in the long-term increasing the state pension age and thereby increasing the number of older workers in work will lead to an increase in employment opportunities for younger workers.

The economy is stimulated by having more people in work, creating a greater labour market for people of all ages. Both UK and international evidence has found that more people in work helps the economy to grow, showing that, on an economy-wide level, older people in work do not block jobs for younger people. We need to ensure there are employment opportunities for both younger and older people.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition his Department uses of the term *(a)* active benefit and *(b)* inactive benefit. [61374]

Chris Grayling: There is no legislative definition of active or inactive benefit. Benefits can be regarded as active if entitlement does or can require the recipient to undertake labour-market or work-preparation activities as a condition of entitlement in order to improve the recipient's chances of finding sustained work, so reducing the chances of long-term benefit dependency.

Currently, the benefits that could be regarded as active are jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance (in respect of those claimants in the work-related activity group). Other benefits such as income support and housing benefit do not contain an active labour-market attachment as a condition of entitlement.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the weekly monetary value is of *(a)* the state pension, *(b)* employment and support allowance and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance. [62686]

Steve Webb: The weekly rates of basic state pension and personal allowances and premiums in employment and support allowance and jobseeker's allowance are set out in the annual social security benefits uprating statement. I refer the hon. Member to the ministerial statement I gave on 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 47WS, which set out the rates of benefit for 2011.

Social Security Benefits: Correspondence

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist benefit claimants who are unable to read official correspondence due to *(a)* learning difficulties and *(b)* dyslexia. [60356]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps his Department is taking to assist benefit claimants who are unable to read official correspondence due to (a) learning difficulties and (b) dyslexia. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The majority of Jobcentre Plus claimants currently make their claims over the telephone. Information is recorded electronically and this removes the need for a claim form to be read and completed by the claimant.

Other claimants can choose to apply for Jobseekers Allowance online via the "Do it online" section of the Directgov website. This provides the flexibility to access Jobcentre Plus services from their own homes, at a pace that suits, with, if appropriate, support from an advocate. Claimants can also submit an initial application for Employment Support Allowance via the internet claim service.

Should either of these channels represent a problem, clerical forms can be issued or, where appropriate, a face to face interview at the customer's local Jobcentre Plus office can be organised. Claimants who choose a face-to-face meeting might also wish to involve their own advocate or representative in this process.

Jobcentre Plus has a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to standard services where it is considered appropriate. Claimants can request the written information that Jobcentre Plus produces in an alternative format. Where Jobcentre Plus establishes that an alternative format is required, it is recommended good practice to record this so that future contact can be made in the same manner.

Jobcentre Plus staff are equipped to obtain documents in alternative formats, for example, large print or Easy Read, which uses simple language and images, making information easier to understand for people with learning difficulties.

If people with dyslexia and / or learning difficulties need extra help to find work, the Disability Employment Adviser can also offer support. Disability Employment Advisers are specially trained to enable them to help people with more complex barriers to employment. Examples include supporting the completion of application forms as well as acting as an advocate for the customer in approaches made to potential employers.

Social Security Benefits: E-mail

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered the merits of offering correspondence via e-mail for benefit claimants who cannot read but have access to electronic reading facilities. [60355]

Maria Miller: We want to ensure all our services are accessible to people. We are actively looking at e-mail as a way for claimants to contact the Department. However, it is not possible currently to guarantee the security of e-mail messages.

From 2012 working age benefit claimants will be able to register, via the Government Gateway, for a secure customer account which they can access through Directgov and, in 2013, universal credit will build on this capability. This account will improve our online claim services and we therefore expect to be able to make more use of e-mail and e-mail alerts.

Social Security Benefits: Health

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are in receipt of *(a)* employment support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance as a result of a degenerative illness. [60663]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is given as follows.

It is important to note that the term 'degenerative disease' is a general one; it may apply to any condition that leads to gradual deterioration, therefore this can encompass a wide variety of conditions. This may include conditions as diverse as neurological, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal conditions and even cancer. Therefore all conditions have been provided in the tables.

Employment support allowance claimants by diagnosis group—November 2010

	Number
Total	593,930
Claimants without any diagnosis code on the system	30
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	6,290
Neoplasms	22,630
Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain Diseases involving the immune mechanism	1,380
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	8,360
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	234,670
Diseases of the Nervous System	25,080
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	3,380
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	1,930
Diseases of the Circulatory System	25,550
Diseases of the Respiratory System	12,360
Diseases of the Digestive System	11,380
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	3,790
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal system and Connective Tissue	86,290
Diseases of the Genito-urinary System	5,480
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	2,770
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	20
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	1,420
Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	78,740
Injury, Poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	55,690
Factors influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services	6,700

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. Under the employment support allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the work capability assessment.
5. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to employment support allowance.
6. Medical condition is based on evidence provided at the start of the claim, this in itself does not confer entitlement to ESA and may not represent a claimant's most recent medical condition. Please note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.
7. Data is available on the Department's website at: http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability living allowance cases in payment by diagnosis—November 2010

	Number
All	3,181,000
Arthritis	585,500
Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease	210,200

Disability living allowance cases in payment by diagnosis—November 2010

	Number
Blindness/Visual Disease	70,000
Stroke Related	111,200
Learning Difficulty	373,100
Mental Health Causes	512,800
Epilepsy	74,000
Deafness	42,500
Malignant Disease	83,000
Chest Disease	94,600
Back Ailments	249,300
Heart Disease	136,700
Parkinson's Disease	19,100
Diabetes Mellitus	59,600
Renal Disorders	16,600
AIDS	8,800
Skin Disease	16,700
Frailty	2,800
Multiple Sclerosis	69,400
Other	445,300

Notes:
1. The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provides some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of DLA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition (DLA) is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. This has been done here.
2. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Case load totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to DLA. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit recipients have had their entitlement to claim benefits ended as a result of being late for an interview in each month since the introduction of the relevant rule. [60341]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and for Pensions has asked me to reply to your question regarding the number of benefit recipients whose entitlement to claim benefits ended as a result of being late for an interview. You have asked for this information for each month since the introduction of the relevant rule. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

If a claimant is late, but attends on the same day, a sanction isn't generally applied but the claimant will be warned about the impact that any future late attendance can have on their benefit. Data on these types of cases are not collected separately.

Since April 2010, legislation has provided for a sanction to be applied when a Jobseeker's Allowance claimant fails to attend an appointment without good cause. The sanction is for a one week loss of benefit, extending to two weeks for the second and each subsequent failure thereafter. The numbers of sanctions applied in these circumstances are in the table below.

Data are not collected for Income Support and Incapacity Benefit and data for Employment Support Allowance has only been available since 18 May 2011 and is, therefore, of limited value.

Great Britain

	Number
Total	225,030
April 2010	15,590
May 2010	22,220
June 2010	26,690
July 2010	25,900
August 2010	24,410
September 2010	25,390
October 2010	23,780
November 2010	24,410
December 2010	16,440
January 2011	20,170

Figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.

The source of the information is DWP Information Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database. Figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State for Work and Pensions of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, Welfare Reform Bill Committee, column 503, what mechanisms are in place to recover overpayment of benefits to EU migrant workers from other EU member states once they have left the UK; and whether any reciprocal arrangements are in place with other EU member states. [61305]

Chris Grayling: Once an EU migrant leaves the United Kingdom and moves to another country within the EU, recovery can be made by that country under EU legislation. This legislation provides for recovery of overpayments either from arrears of benefit, by deduction from ongoing payments of benefit or by instalments if benefit is not in payment. The legislation also allows for enforcement action to be taken through the courts of the country in which the person is now residing where that action is appropriate.

The legislation provides for one member state to take this action on behalf of another member state.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many instances overpayment of benefits to migrant workers from other EU member states was successfully reclaimed after the individual had left the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [61306]

Chris Grayling: Data to determine the number of successfully reclaimed overpayment of benefits to migrant workers from other EU member states, after leaving the United Kingdom are not available.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on reclaiming overpayment of benefits to migrant workers from other EU member states following departure from the UK in the latest period for which figures are available. [61307]

Chris Grayling: Data to determine the amount that is spent on reclaiming overpayment of benefits to EU migrant workers in the UK are not available.

Unemployment: Cancer

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the average number of months persons diagnosed with cancer were certified as unable to undertake work in the latest period for which figures are available. [61498]

Chris Grayling: The system of medical certification by GPs is paper-based and data on the duration of medical certificates are not held centrally. Employers are not obliged to report on duration and causes of statutory sick pay payments.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments were made contrary to the recommendation of a general practitioner on behalf of a claimant in the latest period for which figures are available. [61403]

Chris Grayling: Prior to a work capability assessment general practitioner's provide "Fit Notes" as evidence of incapacity in relation to the work that an individual has currently been doing (for those in work). This evidence does not provide a view on benefit entitlement.

A decision on employment and support allowance benefit entitlement is made by a DWP decision-maker, based on advice from specifically trained health care professionals from Atos Healthcare, who are able to provide independent and robust advice regarding an individual's functional capability.

The information requested is not therefore available.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessments in respect of persons diagnosed with a mental health condition were refused in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such decisions were subsequently overturned on appeal. [61404]

Chris Grayling: There were 132,800 Fit for Work decisions for new employment and support allowance (ESA) claims made up to the end of February 2010, where the primary health condition was classed as mental and behavioural disorders. There were 50,100 appeals heard against these decisions, and of these 21,200 (42%) were cases where the decision was overturned in favour of the appellant.

The above figures come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare, and appeals data from the Tribunals Service. Figures are only available for appeals that have been completed and not for those that are currently under way.

Data on appeals heard are published for new ESA claims starting between October 2008, when ESA was introduced, and up to the end of February 2010 (the latest month where there are sufficient volumes of appeals heard). Appeals data are only included where the person claiming has been found fit for work, they have subsequently appealed against the Department's decision and the appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard. As a result these figures should continue to be treated as emerging findings and not final at this stage.

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who failed a work capability assessment in the last 12 months subsequently had the decision overturned on appeal. [61477]

Chris Grayling: Between March 2009 and February 2010, 258,900 claims for employment and support allowance (ESA) were found fit for work at the initial work capability assessment (WCA). Of these, 34,700 had their entitlement to ESA reinstated after an appeal was heard by the Tribunals Service.

The figure above comes from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service. Figures are only available for appeals that have been completed and not for those that are currently under way.

The figure above has been rounded to the nearest 100. Appeals data are only available for claims starting up to February 2010.

Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to the Tribunals Service and heard, it is likely that there are more appeals that have not yet been heard.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA. The latest report was published in April 2011 and can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the reductions in his Department's budget on the availability and quality of adult learning opportunities. [61758]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* An assessment of the policies announced in the White Paper 'Skills for Sustainable Growth', which are underpinned by 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth', was published on 17 November 2010.[1] These policies reflect the fact that in the current economic climate further education must work within a more limited budget.

An assessment of the impact of those policy commitments that are subject to the passage of the Education Bill through both Houses of Parliament has been published by the Department for Education (DfE). These impact assessments[2] cover all matters that are considered in the Bill including the removal of the skills entitlement at Level 3 and Level 2 for individuals over the age of 23 and plans to streamline Ofsted inspection.

The Government are committed to freeing colleges and providers from central control and regulation so they are better able to respond to the needs of the learners, employers and communities they serve. The sector has identified that the assurance processes used to monitor performance are excessive. Providers offering a quality learning experience should expect minimal external intervention. However, poor providers must expect greater scrutiny and a requirement to make rapid improvements, or lose funding for some (or all) of their provision.

We have taken steps to free colleges and providers from central controls and bureaucracies. This is based on our approach of trusting the sector's leadership and staff and their proven record to date in raising performance. In return, we expect providers to demonstrate their maturity by taking responsibility for their own performance and engaging with stakeholders about their record on delivery.

[1] Equality impact assessment for White Paper and Skills Investment Strategy:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/s/10-1284-skills-for-sustainable-growth-investing-equality-impact.pdf

[2] Overall impact assessments for Education Bill:

http://www.education.gov.uk/home/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/educationbill/a0073748/education-bill

Animal Experiments

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department is developing a national strategy on the use of non-human primates in scientific research. [60011]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government agreement includes a commitment to work to reduce the use of all animals in scientific research, including non-human primates (NHPs). We believe this is an ambitious but essential and achievable goal and that scientific advances present significant opportunities to replace animal use, to reduce the number of animals used, and, where animal use is unavoidable, to refine the procedures involved so as to minimise suffering. These long-standing aims are referred to as the 3Rs.

In its report on the use of NHPs in research published in 2006, an expert group chaired by Professor Sir David Weatherall made 16 recommendations; the Department is awaiting the findings of the review of publicly funded research envisaged in the fourth of these recommendations. The Department will then be in a position to develop a strategy for the use (and non-use) of NHPs.

Intellectual Policy

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of patent applications from *(a)* small and medium-sized businesses and *(b)* others. [61575]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) provides support and advice to all types of business, particularly innovative small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to enable them to understand how they can best use intellectual property, including patents, to benefit their business. However it is not a specific goal of the IPO simply to increase numbers of patent applications because applications which are legally or commercially weak do not benefit their applicants, and can cause uncertainties for other businesses, including for innovative SMEs. This issue was identified in the recent report 'Digital Opportunity' by Professor Ian Hargreaves, which the Government are currently considering.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to improve patent protection for small and medium-sized businesses. [61576]

Mr Davey: The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) provides support and advice to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to assist them in using their intellectual property, including patents, effectively. Enforcement of rights is of particular concern for SMEs. The IPO has taken steps to improve this by providing: a low cost opinions service for patents as well as a mediation service.

Following the Jackson Review, the Government have made changes to the patents county court, to reduce costs. These include streamlined procedures, a fixed scale of recoverable costs capped at £50,000 and a damages cap of £500,000. The costs cap is designed to provide certainty to SMEs worried about a large cost award against them should they lose against a well funded opponent.

Business: Expenditure

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of net capital expenditure was attributable to small and medium-sized enterprises in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [62024]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what proportion of net capital expenditure was attributable to small and medium-sized enterprises (a) in each year since 2005 and (b) in 2011 to date. (62024)

The information available is provided in the table below. Estimates for 2011 are not available until 28th June 2011.

Annual Business Survey (2005) and Quarterly Capital Expenditure Survey (2006-2010)

Small, Medium and Large enterprises, Net capital expenditure (£ million)

	Small ent. (0-99 emp) Net Capex (£ million)	*Small ent. % of total*	*Medium ent. (100-299 emp) Net Capex (£ million)*	*Medium ent. % of total*	*Large ent. (300+ emp) Net Capex (£ million)*	*Large ent. % of total*	*Total Net Capex (£ million)*
2005	23,953	28	9,861	11	52,980	61	86,794
2006q1	4,377	21	3,378	16	13,231	63	20,986

Annual Business Survey (2005) and Quarterly Capital Expenditure Survey (2006-2010)

Small, Medium and Large enterprises, Net capital expenditure (£ million)

	Small ent. (0-99 emp) Net Capex (£ million)	Small ent. % of total	Medium ent. (100-299 emp) Net Capex (£ million)	Medium ent. % of total	Large ent. (300+ emp) Net Capex (£ million)	Large ent. % of total	Total Net Capex (£ million)
2006q2	4,565	22	3,615	17	12,638	61	20,818
2006q3	4,608	20	3,983	17	14,381	63	22,972
2006q4	4,948	20	4,678	18	15,911	62	25,537
2007q1	4,970	20	4,281	18	15,143	62	24,394
2007q2	5,032	22	4,046	17	14,397	61	23,475
2007q3	5,216	21	4,531	18	15,391	61	25,138
2007q4	5,516	19	4,779	17	18,040	64	28,335
2008q1	5,352	22	4,063	17	14,810	61	24,225
2008q2	5,082	21	4,361	18	15,061	61	24,504
2008q3	4,790	19	4,483	18	15,718	63	24,991
2008q4	4,526	17	4,293	17	16,994	66	25,814
2009q1	3,595	17	3,256	15	14,519	68	21,370
2009q2	3,593	19	3,123	17	12,108	64	18,824
2009q3	3,674	18	2,949	15	13,200	67	19,823
2009q4	4,050	19	3,266	15	13,995	66	21,311
2010q1	3,762	18	3,037	15	13,697	67	20,496
2010q2	3,651	19	3,297	17	12,656	64	19,604
2010q3	3,981	19	3,368	16	13,920	65	21,269
2010q4	3,999	17	3,704	16	15,695	67	23,398

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department funds on the causes of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [61657]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC supports research into all aspects of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), and welcomes high-quality research applications in this area. The selection of projects for funding is determined through peer review. The MRC provided £109,000 to projects researching CFS/ME in 2009-10; details of the projects supported can be found at:

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Ourresearch/ResearchInitiatives/CFSME/index.htm

The MRC recently launched a call for proposals to support high quality, innovative research to increase the current knowledge base of CFS/ME and draw in expertise and resource from related fields. Applications were required to address the mechanisms underlying chronic changes related to CFS/ME particularly focusing on one or more of the following areas: autonomic dysfunction, cognitive symptoms, fatigue, immune dysregulation, pain and sleep disorders. The application deadline was 7 June and up to £1.5 million will be made available to support research proposals; the MRC expects to announce any awards towards the end of the year.

Diamond Resorts International

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the changes made by Diamond Resorts International to the terms and conditions of former members of Sunterra; whether his Department has discussed this matter with Diamond Resorts International; and whether his Department has provided any support to former members of Sunterra following the change. [62475]

Mr Davey: Since the general election I have received 25 items of correspondence referring to changes made by Diamond Resorts International to timeshare contracts with former members of Sunterra. The Department is unable to intervene in individual disputes between contracting parties and has not, therefore, discussed this matter with Diamond Resorts International. In response to correspondence I and my officials have provided advice and have passed their concerns to the Office of Fair Trading for any action it may deem appropriate under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999.

I have also responded to two written parliamentary questions, one to my hon. Friend the Member for Suffolk Coastal (Dr Coffey) on 29 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 313W, and the other to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 348W.

EU External Trade: India

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such an agreement on *(a)* employment levels and *(b)* skills in the UK. [61968]

Mr Davey: There is regular dialogue between the Department and Ministers and officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the high commission in New Delhi.

Studies suggest the net benefit to the UK of a free trade agreement between the EU and India could amount to around £2 billion over 10 years. The studies suggest that there would probably be little net long-term impact on employment levels, although there could be some movement of employment between sectors.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of trade unions on the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India. [61969]

Mr Davey: Officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have met with trade union representatives to discuss a range of union interests in the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), also regularly meets the TUC general secretary to discuss issues of mutual interest. Recent meetings have included discussion on the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects a free trade agreement between the EU and the Indian Government to be signed; and if he will make a statement. [62173]

Mr Davey: We hope for conclusion of the agreement by the EU-India summit in December 2011. The signature of the agreement will take place at a later date, once the formal EU process of translating the final text into all member states' languages has been completed. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will announce conclusion and signature of the agreement once this has taken place.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the liability of the Export Credits Guarantee Department was in respect of *(a)* Airbus, *(b)* other aerospace goods, *(c)* other civil goods and *(d)* military goods at 31 March 2011. [59338]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD) contingent liability (net of reinsurance) as at 31 March is shown in the following table. Contingent liability in respect of Airbus relates to obligors (airlines, operating lessors, etc.) for which ECGD guaranteed export credit loans have been made available in connection with the export of Airbus aircraft.

	£ million
(a) Airbus civil aerospace transactions	5,807
(b) Other civil aerospace	195
(c) Civil (non-aerospace)	2,518
(d) Defence	1,144
Total	9,664

Focus Stores: B & Q

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by what date he expects the Office of Fair Trading to make a ruling on the proposed takeover of Focus Stores by B&Q plc; and if he will make a statement. [61979]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading has announced that it will make a decision on this case by 5 August, though it may reach a conclusion earlier. Its investigation is being done under its informal submission process which provides for an administrative deadline of 40 working days. The regulatory control of mergers is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading as the UK's independent competition authority.

Higher Education: Admissions

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university places for *(a)* accountancy, *(b)* actuarial science, *(c)* aeronautical engineering, *(d)* architecture, *(e)* biochemistry, *(f)* biology, *(g)* biomedical sciences, *(h)* business studies, *(i)* chemical engineering, *(j)* chemistry, *(k)* computing, *(l)* dentistry, *(m)* dietetics, *(n)* economics, *(o)* electrical and electronic engineering, *(p)* engineering (general), *(q)* environmental science studies, *(r)* geography, *(s)* geology and earth science, *(t)* managements studies, *(u)* materials sciences, *(v)* mathematics, *(w)* mechanical engineering, *(x)* medicine, *(y)* optometry, *(z)* orthoptics, (aa) pharmacy, (bb) philosophy, (cc) physics, (dd) physiotherapy, (ee) psychology, (ff) sports science, (gg) surveying, (hh) teacher training and (ii) veterinary science in 2011-12. [61590]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* This information is not available; we do not plan for the number of students at a course or subject level. The actual number of places on courses in each subject will depend on the decisions of individual universities. We expect the total number of places on all courses in 2011/12 to be broadly similar to 2010/11.

Mortgages: Competition

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what advice he has received on the application of EU competition rules on restraint of trade to the introduction of alternative business structures in the mortgage conveyancing market. [61414]

Mr Davey: None. Matters relating to the application of EU and UK competition law to markets fall to the Office of Fair Trading.

National Physical Laboratory

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what targets he has set for the outcome of the funding of the National Physical Laboratory's space measurements programme. [62427]

Mr Davey: The Department does not have a space measurements programme with the National Physical Laboratory.

There are however some projects within the portfolio of National Measurement System (NMS) programmes, managed by the National Measurement Office, which include aspects in support of space science and technology. In particular these involve the provision of optical measurement standards to underpin earth observation and measurements of the sun, and time measurement, providing standards to underpin current and future global navigation satellite systems. This NMS capability is enabling National Physical Laboratory to contribute to international research collaborations and undertake specific support contracts for European Space Agency and companies in the space industry.

New Businesses: Costs

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the start-up rates were of businesses in the *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived areas in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [62184]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the start-up rates were of businesses in the (a) most and (b) least deprived areas in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [62184]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

However, unfortunately these statistics are not available based on the deprivation of a particular area.

Postal Services

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of letters for *(a)* walk sorting and *(b)* walk sequencing by Royal Mail were automated in the latest period for which figures are available; [61962]

(2) how many *(a)* mail centres and *(b)* delivery offices in the Royal Mail network were in operation in the latest period for which figures are available. [61963]

Mr Davey: The information requested is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Moya Greene, the chief executive of Royal Mail, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her replies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Self-employed: Ethnic Groups

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the self-employment rate was among *(a)* black and mixed ethnic groups and *(b)* all ethnic groups in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) 2011 to date. [61892]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what self-employment rates were recorded among (a) black and mixed ethnic groups and (b) all ethnic groups in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) 2011 to date (61892).

The table provided contains the information requested. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, the estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Self-employment rates for people aged 16 and over by ethnic groups[1]: Three months ending March, 2005 to 2011, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Number of self-employed as a percentage of all aged 16 and over
Black and mixed ethnic groups	
2005	4.7
2006	5.3
2007	5.1
2008	6.2
2009	4.8
2010	5.7
2011	4.7
All ethnic groups	
2005	7.5
2006	7.7
2007	7.9
2008	7.9
2009	7.8
2010	7.9
2011	7.9

[1] Using the National Statistics standard classification of ethnic groups.

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Students: Carers

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made any assessment of the effect of new arrangements for tuition fees on those undertaking university studies while caring for a person who is ill or disabled. [61409]

Mr Willetts: The Government are clear about the importance of improving access to higher education and is establishing a new framework with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation. Higher education institutions will be encouraged to identify candidates with the ability and potential to succeed, offering those that might need extra support the appropriate assistance.

Loans are available to cover tuition: they are not income assessed and from 2012/13 eligible new full-time students will not have to repay the loan until they are

earning over £21,000. Those who are in more modestly paid work—which might be due to caring responsibilities—will not have to make a contribution while their earnings are below the £21,000 threshold.

For full-time students with adult or child dependants non-repayable grants are available in the form of the Adult Dependants' Grant, Childcare Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance; these are means-tested so that those on the lowest incomes benefit most.

In addition, from 2012/13 eligible new part-time students will not have to pay up front tuition charges and will be able to access loans in the same way as full-time students can now which may also benefit potential students with caring responsibilities.

Trade Agreements

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effect on UK sovereignty of *(a)* free trade agreements between the EU and non-EU countries and *(b)* the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India. [61967]

Mr Davey: While the Commission has competence under the EU's Common Commercial Policy to conduct trade negotiations, it does so in accordance with mandates from the Council. In most cases—including the proposed free trade agreement with India—we would expect the final agreement to be a mixed competence agreement, requiring ratification by each member state.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on the UK *(a)* automotive, *(b)* aerospace and *(c)* pharmaceutical industry of the introduction of a free trade agreement with (i) China, (ii) India and (iii) Japan. [62472]

Mr Davey: There is no proposal for a free trade agreement (FTA) with China although a partnership and co-operation agreement is under negotiation. Negotiations are ongoing with India, and negotiations with Japan have not started but the European Commission and Japan will be launching a scoping study shortly.

The European Commission's sustainability impact assessment for a fair trade agreement (FTA) with India suggests the FTA may not have a significant impact on these three sectors. A study carried out for the Commission of a potential FTA with Japan suggests that a deep FTA involving significant reductions in non-tariff barriers could lead to significant export opportunities for all three sectors, although the impact on output is less clear-cut.

Trade: Developing Countries

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings he has had on the Doha trade talks. [60732]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* Concluding the Doha round is the top trade policy priority for the UK. It is now clear that the full round will not be concluded in 2011, so we are pushing for the best possible outcome this year which reflects the interests of least developed countries (LDCs). Since Easter, I have called a number of EU Trade Ministers to discuss Doha, and I raised Doha at the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) on 13 May.

Trading Standards: Legal Profession

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to give trading standards additional powers to curtail the activities of unscrupulous law firms. [60996]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Trading standards already have powers to investigate the activities of unscrupulous law firms if they constitute breaches under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 which bans all persons acting in trade or business from engaging in unfair commercial (mainly marketing and selling) practices against consumers. The regulations apply across all business sectors and set out a framework for how businesses must deal with consumers so that consumers can make free and informed choices in relation to goods and services. Enforcement of the regulations is through undertakings from infringers, enforcement orders or by prosecution, with offences carrying potentially an unlimited fine or up to two years imprisonment or both.

Other unscrupulous activities of law firms may be regulated by the Law Society, the Bar Council or the Legal Services Board. Government do not consider it appropriate to give trading standards enforcement powers under these regimes.

Vocational Training

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to encourage the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service to share services; and if he will make a statement. [61392]

Mr Hayes: The National Apprenticeship Service is housed within the Skills Funding Agency, and is responsible for delivering the Government's apprenticeship programme. The two organisations work closely together, and the Skills Funding Agency already provides all corporate services to the National Apprenticeship Service, including human resources, information systems and financial management. It also manages all aspects of contracting with colleges and providers—the largest source of apprenticeship training.

As part of the Government's wider efficiencies agenda, both the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service are continuing to work closely together to identify areas where further efficiencies can be made.

CABINET OFFICE

Chief Coroner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what legal advice he received prior to taking the decision to include provisions relating to the office of chief coroner in the Public Bodies Bill. [62151]

Mr Maude: The decision to include the office of chief coroner in the Bill was a policy decision, and was reached in the normal way with policy and legal advice from departmental officials.

Childbirth

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the projected birth rate in England is for *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [61732]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the projected birth rate in England is for a) 2011-12 and b) 2012-13. [61732]

The latest projections available are from the 2008-based National Population Projections, which were published in 2009. The table below shows the assumed total fertility rate (TFR) and projected number of births for England from 2009-10 to 2012-13. The TFR is the average number of live children a group of women would have if they experienced the assumed age-specific fertility rates for the calendar year in question throughout their child bearing years.

Assumed TFR and projected number of births, 2009-10 to 2012-13, England

Mid year	*TFR*	*Numbers*
2009-10	1.92	661,419
2010-11	1.90	660,001
2011-12	1.88	659,624
2012-13	1.87	660,678

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agency, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61706]

Mr Maude: I refer the right hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne East to the answer given to him on 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 69W.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61678]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office's standard contract conditions for goods and services provide for the contractor to comply with standards applying to:

the prevention of corruption and fraud; discrimination;

health and safety;

protection of data;

confidentiality; and

security and environmental requirements.

The conditions for services also provide for compliance with standards relating to:

avoidance of conflicts of interest; and

vetting of contractors' personnel.

The Cabinet Office's contracts may be modified to take account of the type of goods or services being supplied and the risks to the Department.

Since January 2011, the Cabinet Office has published its contracts above £10,000 on-line where details of the conditions can be viewed.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61723]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not currently have any estimates of redundancy costs in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period.

However on 23 June 2011, Cabinet Office announced reforms to the organisation of government communications that will lead to the closure of the Central Office of Information by 1 April 2012. Work has begun on identifying the organisational change process and therefore the size or details of any potential redundancies is not currently known.

Employment Schemes

Julie Elliott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on jobseeker's allowance, how many of those people unemployed for more than 12 months were participating in mandatory schemes, including the New Deal. [59930]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Information on claimants of jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months participating in mandatory New Deal schemes could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department issues to other Government departments on the frequency of publication of the number and seniority of their employees; and what his policy is on the compilation of labour market statistics across the Civil Service. [61553]

Mr Maude: In order to make Government more transparent and accountable, Departments are required to publish structure charts every six months showing the number and seniority of their staff. Cabinet Office provides Departments with guidance for this exercise to ensure that the data are clear and allow comparisons across Government.

The Office for National Statistics publishes detailed information on the civil service workforce as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. This can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

The Government are currently considering how best to extend transparency further to the collection and publication of workforce management information for the civil service as a whole.

Government Departments: Procurement

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* guidance he has issued and *(b)* support he has provided in respect of the promotion of locally-based companies through Government procurement policies. [62455]

Mr Maude: To safeguard the public purse, procurers are required to seek value for money through fair and open competition. Through our membership of the European Union and as a signatory to international agreements, our contracting authorities are required to treat suppliers from Europe and various other countries on an equal footing with UK suppliers. This is a two-way street, however, as it gives our suppliers access to public procurement markets overseas.

The Government of course want locally-based UK companies to be successful in public procurement, and they will benefit from the steps we are taking to remove the barriers that SMEs have faced.

Lone Parents: Carmarthen

Simon Hart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were *(a)* in employment and *(b)* unemployed in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each year since 2008. [61611]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of lone parents who were (a) in employment and (b) unemployed in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency in each year since 2008 (61611).

Estimates of the number of children living in workless households are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. However, due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates because the sample sizes for this survey are not sufficiently large enough for the Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency.

Minimum Wage: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in Dartford constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [61942]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were paid at the rate of the national minimum wage in Dartford constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. (61942)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. Estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are available, but not below Region.

The following table shows the number of employee jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for the South East and the UK in April 2010, the latest period for which figures are available.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage for the South East and the UK in April 2010

	2010	
	Thousand	*Percentage*
South East	*34	*1.0
UK	271	1.1

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key:
≥ 5%
> 5% and ≤ 10%
CV = Coefficient of Variation
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Codes of Practice

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether unpaid special advisers in Government Departments are subject to the civil service and special advisers' code of conduct; and if he will make a statement; [62137]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers in his Department and the Civil Service Commissioners on the use of unpaid special advisers. [62138]

Mr Maude: Special advisers, paid and unpaid, are subject to the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and the Civil Service Code.

There has been no correspondence with the Civil Service Commission about unpaid special advisers.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Travel

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many journeys were made by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers using (i) the Government Car Service, (ii) hire car companies and (iii) trains in the last 12 months. [62189]

Mr Maude: Special advisors on occasion travel with Ministers in Government cars which is not separately identified. During the last 12 months special advisers have made: no journeys in a Government car (other than with a Minister); one taxi journey; and two return train journeys.

Public Sector

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to publish the proposed White Paper on Public Services. [62459]

Mr Letwin: Current plans are to publish the White Paper in the summer, before recess.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 28 June 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Attorney-General what steps he is taking to improve the rate of conviction of those involved in human trafficking. [62262]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is taking a number of steps to improve the rate of successful prosecutions in cases of human trafficking in England and Wales. They include working with law enforcement agencies and others, both in the United Kingdom and in source countries, to improve investigation and evidence gathering to support prosecutions of trafficking cases. The CPS is also encouraging victims of human trafficking to support criminal proceedings. They have published a new public policy statement and are working with non-government organisations in the development of further measures to assist and support victims.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on Climate Change: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is of the Committee on Climate Change for the comprehensive spending review period. [62733]

Gregory Barker: Following representations from the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), the Government and the CCC are engaged in discussions to agree a revised funding package for the spending review period to enable the CCC to manage the delivery of its work programme while at the same time contributing to the overall savings that all public bodies are expected to make over the next four years. The Government expect to conclude these discussions in the near future.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62065]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 451W. There have been no further claims since this date.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62480]

Gregory Barker: The Government have set a target for Departments to pay invoices from small and medium sized entities within five working days of the receipt of a validly rendered invoice. As it is not practical to distinguish SMEs from other suppliers, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) applies this target to all payments. From May 2010 to May 2011 DECC paid 85% of invoices with five working days. 7,729 invoices worth £551 million were paid within five working days. The remaining 1,318 invoices, worth £266 million, were paid after the five-day target and include a number of invoices from larger suppliers one of which was for £103 million. 99.9% of invoices were paid within standard commercial terms of 30 days.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62719]

Mr Paterson: No contracts were awarded by the Northern Ireland Office to Capita since May 2010.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Office were based in Northern Ireland on the most recent date for which figures are available. [62522]

Mr Paterson: As at 31 March, the most recent date for which figures are available, 68% of staff working in the Northern Ireland Office are based in Northern Ireland.

Security

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the reasons for the maintenance of the security restrictions in Lower Chichester street, Belfast which prevent access for buses. [62391]

Mr Paterson: Following a regular review of security, Lower Chichester street was closed to all traffic on 30 April 2010 at the request of the Minister of Justice, David Ford MLA, as an appropriate and measured response to the current threat.

The closure of Lower Chichester street was last reviewed in September 2010 and I have made a commitment to review it on a yearly basis in consultation with the Department of Justice, the Department of Regional Development, PSNI and other interested parties.

As soon as the security situation allows it is my intention to remove the road closures, once again allowing access for buses.

PRIME MINISTER

British-Irish Council

Mr Dodds: To ask the Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the work of the British-Irish Council. [62511]

The Prime Minister: A meeting of the British-Irish Council was held on 20 June 2011, when the UK delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg). A copy of the communiqué published after the meeting can be found on the British-Irish Council website:

http://www.gov.je/BritishIrishCouncil/Communiques/Pages/16BICSummitLondon.aspx

Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects the next Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report to be published. [61880]

The Prime Minister: We expect to receive and publish the Report shortly.

WALES

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in her Department in the last 12 months. [62076]

Mr David Jones: None.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by her Department since May 2010. [61669]

Mr David Jones: My Department obtains most of its services through arrangements with the Ministry of Justice and has few contracts of its own. Those it does issue contain provisions for the performance standards expected from the contractor to ensure value for money for the taxpayer.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussion she has had with the First Minister on cross-border trafficking of human beings between England and Wales. [62235]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales, my right hon. Friend the Member for Chesham and Amersham (Mrs Gillan), and I have regular discussions with the First Minister on a wide range of issues.

I am a member of the Inter Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, and the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services has also been invited to join the group. I am pleased that the UK Government and the Welsh Government will be working together as we develop a new strategy to combat human trafficking.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Tourism

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the effects of reductions in funding from his Department for touring arts organisations on the *(a)* viability of arts venues and *(b)* number of staff employed by venues; and if he will make a statement. [62337]

Mr Vaizey: Arts Council England (ACE) has addressed touring arts organisations as a priority in their 10-year framework "Achieving great art for everyone" and details of how this will be met shall be set out in the autumn.

ACE will continue to fund a wide range of organisations that tour, and organisations which programme touring work in a variety of spaces, including funded and commercial arts venues, schools, village halls and outdoor spaces. Within ACE's National Portfolio, over 100 organisations identified touring as a core part of their work. An additional £18 million of lottery income a year will be invested through the National Portfolio budget to organisations for touring to engage broader audiences.

ACE recognises challenges ahead for venues which rely on local authority funding and are subject to cuts which may impact on staff infrastructure. ACE staff in the regions are working closely with local authority partners to support the touring infrastructure.

Broadband

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) by what date he expects superfast broadband internet access to have been introduced to existing areas of poor access in North West Durham constituency; [61410]

(2) how he plans to monitor the implementation of the delivery of superfast broadband internet access across the UK by 2015; [61475]

(3) what *(a)* timetable and *(b)* plans he has to achieve the roll-out of superfast broadband internet access across the UK by 2015; [61476]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* economic growth and *(b)* businesses in areas with poor broadband service of the revision of the Government's timetable for the roll-out of universal broadband; [61480]

(5) what support and assistance he plans to provide local authorities implementing the programme for delivery of superfast broadband internet access across the UK by 2015. [61488]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have allocated £530 million to ensure superfast broadband reaches at least 90% of households in each local authority. Four pilot projects were announced in October. Wiltshire, Devon and Somerset and Norfolk received second wave funding announced on 27 May. I will be announcing the allocations for the devolved Administrations and for local authorities in England in the near future.

To monitor the implementation of the delivery of superfast broadband and to determine whether the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe, we will be publishing a balanced scorecard which will include speed, price, choice and coverage, as well as take up. This is due to be published in the summer of 2011.

With regards to the timetable for roll out, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey

(Mr Hunt) announced on 12 May 2011 the ambition that 90% of the UK population should have access to a superfast broadband connection and universal access to a service of at least 2Mbps by 2015.

The impact of broadband on business growth is well documented in publicly available studies. I have not made any new assessment of the impact of the revised timetable for broadband roll-out on economic growth or businesses in areas with poor broadband services.

In addition to providing a funding allocation to local authorities to support the roll-out of superfast, we have in BDUK compiled an experienced team to help authorities to manage the procurement process, including an online resource centre for local authorities and the development of a procurement framework, to which authorities will have access.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC on digital switchover. [62347]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* I have not had any discussions with the BBC on digital TV switchover. However, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, attended two ministerial group meetings along with representatives from the BBC, on digital TV switchover on 20 January and 10 May 2011.

I met with the BBC and commercial radio operators to discuss radio switchover in March. In addition, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries, the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), has attended a number of meetings with the BBC and other representatives of the radio sector as part of the Digital Radio Action plan process.

Earls Court Exhibition Centre

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate the effect on the level of revenue from *(a)* business and *(b)* tourist visitors to the UK which would result from the closure of Earls Court exhibition centre. [61351]

John Penrose: This Department is not able to estimate the overall effect of the closure of the Earls Court exhibition centre on business and tourism revenues in the UK. However, London has a significant number of other venues for conferences, exhibitions and events, including Olympia, the O2, Wembley and ExCel London, and the Olympic games and Paralympic games in 2012 presents the greatest-ever opportunity to boost London and the UK's appeal as an events destination. The business tourism and events sector will also benefit from a range of proposals included in the Government's new tourism policy, published in March.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on his proposals for the future of local television; and if he will make a statement. [61412]

Mr Vaizey: The Government expect to publish their final proposals for local television in a statement in July 2011. This will set out the framework for viable local services, the expected timescales and processes involved.

Sports: Public Bodies

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he has made an assessment of the standards of governance in the UK's amateur sports governing bodies. [62346]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* There are many excellent examples of effective governance within the sports movement in this country, where the best use is made of the principles of good corporate governance, transparency and independent scrutiny. Through Sport England and UK Sport we continue to challenge our core funded sporting bodies to create, improve and maintain the best possible governance structures.

The Sport and Recreation Alliance also published their Code on Good Governance in May this year and I whole-heartedly endorse its contents. It is in everyone's interests for those principles to be universally adopted and I am committed to support that development.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Common Agricultural Policy

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on *(a)* achieving a reduction in the level of common agriculture policy (CAP) subsidies and *(b)* her plans for their abolition following negotiations on the future of the CAP after 2013; and if she will make a statement. [61572]

Mr Paice: The European Commission is due to bring forward proposals on the EU budget from 2014-20 at the end of this month and on the CAP post-2013 later in the year. In the meantime we are continuing to work constructively with all EU partners to make the case for genuine and farsighted reform.

There must be a very substantial cut to the CAP budget during the next financial framework. In a smaller overall budget, future CAP expenditure should tackle the key objectives of encouraging a competitive, sustainable EU agriculture sector able to respond to climate change challenges, reducing reliance on subsidies and focusing resources on the provision of public goods.

Farming: Pigs

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of effects of intensive pig farming on *(a)* animal welfare and *(b)* the local (i) environment and (ii) economy. [62156]

Mr Paice: All pig producers must comply with relevant environmental and animal welfare legislation, which applies equally to all livestock farms, regardless of size or production system. Poor welfare may occur in both intensive and extensive systems.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 protects the welfare of animals on-farm and makes it an offence to cause suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals. This means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to ensure the animal's welfare needs are met. DEFRA has also published a pig welfare code on its website which encourages high standards of husbandry and which farmers are required by law to have access to, and be familiar with.

DEFRA has not made any specific assessment of the implications for animal welfare of intensive pig farms. It is important to recognise that poor welfare may occur in both intensive and extensive systems. This is echoed in the current scientific advice from the Farm Animal Welfare Council, that the most significant influence on the welfare of livestock is the stock-keeper, not the system in which it is reared.

Large scale pig units are subject to the integrated pollution prevention and control directive (IPPC). Implemented through the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. This is the regulatory instrument for preventing and controlling emissions from industrial installations, including sites for the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs that reach or exceed stated thresholds. Under the IPPC directive, operators of affected installations are required to control emissions by demonstrating that the site is compliant with best available techniques (BAT). What are considered to be BAT in each case will be for the Environment Agency, as regulator, to determine.

In line with the progressive reform of the common agricultural policy, it is important for the UK pig sector to compete globally. We therefore welcome innovative and entrepreneurial efforts by farmers to improve their competitiveness while protecting the environment and meeting animal welfare standards.

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to the pig farming industry on meeting environmental and animal welfare standards; and whether she has any plans to review this guidance. [62163]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has published a pig welfare code on its website which encourages high standards of husbandry and emphasises the importance of good stockmanship for animal welfare. By law, farmers are required to have access to, and be familiar with this code.

'Keeping pigs—A beginners guide' was recently published on Directgov which includes links to further information such as the DEFRA publication "A Guide for New Pig Keepers". This guidance is for all pig keepers and supplements more detailed guidance on rules for feeding of by-products to animals. Both booklets can be viewed on the DEFRA website.

Also available through links from the DEFRA website is Environment Agency guidance for operators of intensive pig rearing installations on how to meet the integrated pollution prevention and control requirements which the eponymous Directive (2008/1/EC) places upon them.

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on the planned intensive pig farm in Foston, Derbyshire. [62182]

Mr Paice: We have received no recent representations on the planned intensive pig farm in Foston, Derbyshire.

Food Supply

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of locally-sourced food her Department uses. [62127]

Mr Paice: DEFRA does not have a definition of locally-sourced food. This is because there are wide variations in what is considered to be local.

A consumer survey commissioned by the Food Standards Agency and published in 2007 indicated that the term local is interpreted differently by UK consumers with some considering it a small geographic area (40 miles) and some considering it as food sourced from a wider area (e.g. county, region or country). A number of organisations have sought to define 'local food'. However these differ greatly in their criteria and on the size of geographic area considered local, making them unsuitable for an over arching definition for general use. Where it is used businesses should be able to explain what it means. If consumers have concerns about the origin of their food they can ask for details at the point of purchase.

Finally, there are EU schemes which allow for the protection of certain food and drink products which carry the name of a geographical area and which owe their distinctive characteristics and reputation to the area in which they are produced. Scotch whisky is probably the best know of these protected names but others include Cornish clotted cream, Scotch beef and Melton Mowbray pork pies. It is our policy to actively encourage more UK applications under these schemes.

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* economic, *(b)* environmental and *(c)* social value of sale and production of local food. [62161]

Mr Paice: We have not carried out a quantitative assessment of the value of local food. However, we have carried out some research on local foods which identified a commercial opportunity where value added through price premiums is available. The social and environmental value depends largely on the type of initiative—production system, added value and supply chain.

Work on attitudes showed there is a growing demand for local and regional food although this does not always translate into buying behaviour.

Wind Farms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects of onshore wind farms on night-flying autumn migrant birds. [62791]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

A considerable amount of research has been undertaken, both within the UK and elsewhere, to determine the significance of any impacts of wind farms on wildlife. Data collected from a number of existing wind farms have indicated that, for the majority of locations, there

is little or no evidence of a significant impact on birds. Careful site selection is important to avoid potentially significant impacts, and within the planning process environmental impact assessments are prepared for proposed wind farms. The RSPB has noted in its own reports that

"the majority of studies indicated that (bird) collision mortality rates per turbine in the UK are low"

and that

"if wind farms are located away from major migration routes there is a strong possibility that they will have minimal impact on wildlife".

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Audit Commission

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission on what dates officials of the National Audit Office have dined on official business with representatives of the Audit Commission since 2007-08; in which restaurants; and at what cost to the public purse. [61767]

Mr Leigh: Officials of the National Audit Office have paid for meals with officials from the Audit Commission on three occasions since 2007-08:

On 11 June 2007 Sir John Bourn, former Comptroller and Auditor General, hosted Steve Bundred, Chief Executive of the Audit Commission, for dinner at Wiltons at a cost of £199;

On 15 January 2009, Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General, had lunch with David Walker, MD Communications at the Audit Commission, at the Ebury Wine Bar at a cost of £41.40;

On 2 February 2011, Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General, met with Eugene Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Audit Commission, for breakfast at the Mint Hotel at a cost of £19.90.

Officials of the National Audit Office have dined with officials from the Audit Commission on six occasions since 2007-08 where the NAO did not pay:

On 1 November 2007 Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General had lunch with the then MD, Communications at the Audit Commission. Information on the location and cost is no longer available;

On 3 December 2007 Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General and Steve Bundred, Audit Commission Chief Executive dined at L'Escargot;

On 5 May 2009 Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General, Steve Bundred, Audit Commission Chief Executive, and Michael O'Higgins, Chairman of the Audit Commission dined at Qurinale;

On 14 September 2009 Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General had lunch with David Walker, MD Communications at the Audit Commission at the Ebury Wine Bar;

On 6 January 2010 Martin Sinclair, Assistant Auditor General, and the Managing Director Audit at the Audit Commission had lunch at the Rex Whistler Restaurant (we understand that this was at no cost to the public purse); and,

On 7 April 2010 Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General had lunch with David Walker, MD Communications at the Audit Commission, at the Footstool restaurant.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Olympic Games 2012

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that any grant by Bromley council of a time-limited waiver to the terms of lease to Biggin Hill Airport Ltd to allow extended hours and additional flights during the period of the London 2012 Olympics does not set a precedent for future expansion of the airport. [62591]

Mr Philip Hammond: In view of the anticipated number of international visitors expected to come to London for the games, and the demands this may place on aviation operations during the peak periods, we would encourage local authorities and others to give due consideration to any requests for flexibility on an exceptional basis around airport operating conditions during this period. However, so far as Biggin Hill airport is concerned, this is a matter for the London borough of Bromley, as the landlord of the airport, to decide.

Crossrail Line: Railway Signals

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects a European train control system with an automatic train operation signalling system to be in place on Crossrail by December 2018. [61261]

Mrs Villiers: A formal application for derogation in respect of signalling for the Central Operating Section of the Crossrail project has been made to the European Commission and is currently being considered by them.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HS2 Ltd has incurred on the High Speed Two programme, including on compensation payments, to date; and how much each expects to incur by the date of introduction of a Bill to enable the line. [62431]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd spent £24.1 million (excluding VAT) between January 2009, when it was established, and the end of the 2010-11 financial year. In addition, the Department for Transport spent £9.6 million on property purchases under the exceptional hardship scheme up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

The funding allocated as part of the comprehensive spending review for HS2 was:

		£ million
	Resource spending	*Capital spending*
2011-12	116.1	50
2012-13	163.3	50
2013-14	89.4	50
2014-15	204.2	50

Level Crossings: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each level crossing which *(a)* has had and *(b)* will have additional safety features introduced as a result of the recommendations of the Office of Rail Regulation report on the fatalities at Elsenham in 2005; and by what date he expects all such installations to have been completed. [61264]

Mrs Villiers: Details of the specific level crossings to which safety recommendations from the Elsenham report can be applied, the nature of any changes and their installation dates, are an operational matter for Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address:

David Higgins
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

The Office of Rail Regulation, as the independent health and safety regulator of Britain's railways has a role in monitoring the progress of safety recommendations and that they are appropriately acted upon.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the availability of motor insurance to motorists over the age of 80. [62621]

Mike Penning: Any motorist irrespective of age must have statutory minimum third party insurance cover. Motor insurers are responsible for setting the terms and conditions of the policies that they offer and it is for them to decide the level of risk that they take in issuing a policy. A driver's age is one of the factors that insurers can take into account.

We would not wish to introduce any measures that would discourage elderly drivers from obtaining insurance.

Public Transport

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the role of public transport, cycling and walking in promoting better health outcomes. [59714]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* The Secretary of State has had no direct discussions with the Secretary of State for Health on this issue. However, I met with the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), last September to discuss the role of active travel in promoting better health outcomes. This is discussed in Chapter 5 of the Local Transport White Paper: 'Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon', which we published in January this year. My officials also worked closely with the Department of Health and contributed to the White Paper: 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', published in November 2010.

Rail Delivery Group

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Rail Delivery Group in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [61284]

Mrs Villiers: The cost of the Rail Delivery Group is met jointly by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and Network Rail (NR). There is no additional cost to the public purse.

Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the Final Independent Report of the Rail Value for Money Study, whether he plans to introduce periodic reviews on the efficiency and productivity of the railway system. [61231]

Mrs Villiers: Sir Roy McNulty's recommendation was that Government, in conjunction with the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and industry, should review periodically the efficiency and productivity of the railway system as a whole. This recommendation, alongside others in Sir Roy's final report, will be considered in preparing both the Department for Transport's detailed policy statement on rail for November 2011, and our High Level Output Specification, which will be delivered by the end of July 2012.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on securing the derogations from EU interoperability regulations on European train control systems in respect of *(a)* the Crossrail project and *(b)* other rail projects. [61260]

Mrs Villiers: A formal application for derogation in respect of signalling for the Central Operating Section of the Crossrail project has been made to the European Commission and is currently being considered by them.

There are currently no other applications for derogation in respect of signalling for other UK rail projects.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to produce a measurable objective for cost reductions in the rail industry. [61268]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are now considering which of the recommendations in the rail value for money study it will take forward and on what timescale. That work will complement thinking on a wider package of reforms to secure a sustainable railway at lower cost that delivers a better deal for both taxpayer and fare-payer. A detailed strategy for the reform of the industry will be published in November.

Railways: Franchises

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of longer rail franchises on the quality of service offered by train operating companies to passengers. [62464]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Discussions with rail operators have made clear that longer franchises are likely to increase the amount of investment and improvements to service quality that train operating companies can deliver during the franchise term.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the effect on rail maintenance costs of the suspension of engineering works on routes serving London 2012 Olympic venues between late June and early September 2012. [62616]

Mrs Villiers: The effect on rail maintenance costs of the suspension of engineering works on routes serving London 2012 Olympic venues is a matter for Network Rail to manage within the overall targets for costs and efficiency set by the Office of Rail Regulation.

Railways: Wales

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend the proposed high speed rail link to Wales; and what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on this subject. [61152]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Government's aspiration is for a truly national high speed network. While there are no detailed plans at this stage for any extension to Wales, subject to the outcome of the current consultation, the Government would consider options for further high speed links with other parts of the UK such as Wales as the network develops over time.

The proposed first phase of the HS2 line will allow classic compatible trains to run at high speed from London to the west midlands and at conventional speed beyond. HS2 classic compatible trains running a high speed to Lichfield and then at conventional speed via Crewe could help significantly reduce journey times to Chester and North Wales from London.

Ministers regularly meet with members of the Welsh Government to discuss a range of transport issues.

Rescue Services: Belfast

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many search and rescue operations were carried out from the Belfast Coastguard Station in each of the last five years; how many such operations were carried out during the hours of darkness; and *(a)* how long and *(b)* how many staff hours each such operation took. [62780]

Mike Penning: The number of incidents (including those categorised as alarm, distress and uncertainty) coordinated by Belfast Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Bangor from 2006 to date is shown in the following table:

	Number
2006	460
2007	469
2008	444
2009	572
2010	654
2011 to end of May	236

The number and type of incidents is available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/shipsandcargoes/consultations/mcaa-consultations-archive/hm_coastguard_proposals_for_modernisation_consultation_2010/statistics_requested.htm

Detailed information for all years about the number and duration of operations conducted during hours of darkness (broadly between 1900-0700) cannot be gathered other than at disproportionate cost. However a manual interrogation of records in the time available shows that the number of operations during hours of darkness for 2009, 2010 and so far in 2011 was as follows:

	Number
2009	160
2010	237
2011 to end of May	74

Information about staff hours is not recorded.

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many search and rescue operations from Belfast Coastguard Station involved co-operation with the Irish Coastguard *(a)* in each year since 2005 and *(b)* in 2011 to date. [62781]

Mike Penning: The number of search and rescue incidents that have involved co-operation with the Irish Coastguard in each year since 2005 is in the following table:

	Number
2005	14
2006	27
2007	31
2008	38
2009	54
2010	50
2011 to the end of May	19

These figures only include incidents where the Irish Coastguard Search and Rescue helicopters have been used.

Roads: Accidents

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities he expects to publish *(a)* casualty rates on local roads and *(b)* speed camera information; and what information his Department holds on the date on which each such authority plans to do so. [61235]

Mike Penning: I expect each English local highway authority with active cameras outside London, plus Transport for London, to arrange for the publication of speed camera information, in order to enhance transparency and local accountability. Different local highway authorities may publish this material together, for example where they share the same police force.

There is no requirement arising from the Department for Transport for local authorities to publish casualty rates on local roads. However they are able to do so. Both the Department and other organisations do publish material about the distribution of casualties between local areas.

Roads: Regulation

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 406W, on roads: regulation, which regulations *(a)* relate to and *(b)* do not relate to cyclists; and for what reason some road regulations do not affect all road users. [60521]

Norman Baker: The five regulations that specifically apply to cycling are:

Cycle Racing on Highways Regulations 1960;

Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1983;

Cycle Tacks Regulations 1984;

Cycle Racing on Highways (Tour de France 1994) Regulations 1994; and

Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations 2010.

There is another regulation which although not specifically related to bicycles could be included here: Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations 1983.

Even though the above specifically relate to cycling, we do expect cyclists and other road users, to abide by all general road and traffic regulations.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the section in his Department's Departmental Business Plan on speed camera data was changed in May 2011 from a commitment to working with local authorities to publish speed camera data to a commitment to issue guidance on how to publish such data. [61234]

Mike Penning: The change in wording reflects progress on this important commitment. A working group, including local authority representation, completed its work with us in April advising the Department for Transport about the data publication. The Department then undertook further work to enable guidance to be issued—hence the change in wording in May to the business plan's action.

Transport: EU Law

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the standards to be agreed in the Intelligent Transport Systems Directive. [61273]

Mike Penning: We will seek to ensure that development of Intelligent Transport Systems standards and specifications are consistent with the principles set out in Annex II of the Intelligent Transport Systems Directive (2010/40/EU).

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles from Northern Ireland have been stopped by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency officials in England in each of the last three years. [61981]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) holds data on the number of safety checks it conducts, rather than the number of vehicles stopped. Each vehicle is often subject to more than one type of safety check. VOSA checked the following number of Northern Ireland vehicles in England in the last three years.

	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*
Mechanical checks	1,346	2,290	2,225
Drivers hours and weighing checks	2,180	3,046	2,680

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many vehicles stopped by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency officials were found to have defects in each of the last three years; [62167]

(2) how many vehicles were stopped by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency officials in each of the last three years. [62168]

Mike Penning: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) holds data on the number of safety checks it conducts, rather than the number of vehicles stopped. Each vehicle is often subject to more than one type of safety check. The following table shows the number of checks and defects VOSA carried out in the last three years:

	2010-11		*2009-10*		*2008-09*	
	Number	*Defects*	*Number*	*Defects*	*Number*	*Defects*
Mechanical checks	148,869	52,808	157,005	59,944	131,475	53,944
Drivers hours and weighing checks	142,221	28,097	160,442	38,703	121,509	35,981

High Speed Rail

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made on the potential effect of high speed rail on the capacity of the *(a)* West and *(b)* East Coast main lines. [62671]

Mr Philip Hammond: A national high speed rail network serving Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and London would release considerable capacity on the existing network for additional services.

As well as enabling the provision of up to 14 high speed services an hour into London, the first phase of High Speed 2 (HS2) alone (the London-West Midlands line) would release sufficient capacity through the transfer of long distance services to enable more than 160 new services a day on the existing West Coast Main Line. The illustrative service specification drawn up by HS2 Ltd indicates that train frequencies could almost double at some towns—providing thousands of extra seats, along with more reliable, quicker, more frequent and less crowded trains for commuters during rush hour.

Some of the largest increases in service levels could be seen in towns such as Milton Keynes (potentially almost 90% increase in services), Northampton (46%) and Tamworth and Lichfield Trent Valley (80% each).

The second phase of HS2 (the proposed branches to Leeds and Manchester) would see these benefits spread to the East Coast and Midland Main Lines. Work on released capacity on these lines will be undertaken as part of HS2 Ltd's ongoing work on route options for Phase 2 of the network.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationality

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support and assistance his Department provides for UK nationals with dual citizenship when in the country of their other citizenship; and if he will make a statement. [62504]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office would not normally offer consular support to a dual British national in the country of their other nationality, or get involved in dealings between a dual national and the authorities of that state. We may make an exception to this rule if, having looked at the circumstances of the case, we consider that there is a special humanitarian reason to do so. These circumstances might include cases involving minors, forced marriages or an offence which carries the death penalty. However, the help we can provide will depend on the individual's circumstances and the authorities in the state of their other nationality agreeing to this.

This is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad", which is available on our website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/publications

China: Diplomatic Service

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1165-8, on the future diplomatic network, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* duties are of the new diplomatic posts in China; and whether any such posts will be dedicated to monitoring human rights in China and Tibet. [62112]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague)'s oral statement to the House on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1165-8, we are working to put in place the announced increase in frontline staff in our China network.

The additional officials (up to 50) will include both UK-based and locally engaged staff. They will be deployed to reinforce our existing network in China, and to strengthen our engagement with the regions and cities outside those where we have our embassy and consulates.

All our missions in China monitor and raise human rights with host countries, as do all our missions overseas.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of recruiting a desk officer with responsibility for monitoring Tibet as part of his new diplomatic frontline staff for China. [62123]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Beijing and our consulate in Chongqing already have officers whose job description includes responsibility for monitoring developments in Tibet. These teams are among those that will be reinforced as part of the planned increase in frontline staff.

China: Tibet

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of China to withdraw its armed forces from the monastery and town of Ngaba, Tibet, release all those detained and allow access to the monastery and region for international observers and journalists; and if he will make a statement. [62113]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are deeply concerned by reports of violence at the Kirti Monastery in a Tibetan area of Sichuan Province. We have raised these concerns both with the Chinese embassy in London and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, asking for information and calling for restraint. I wrote to the Chinese ambassador on 3 May 2011 raising my concerns at recent human rights developments in China, including the situation at Kirti Monastery.

At the 17th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 16 June 2011, the EU statement called on the Chinese authorities to refrain from the use of force in dealing with the situation at the Kirti monastery, and to allow independent observers to the site. Officials in our embassy in Beijing and in our consulate in Chongqing will continue to press for access to Tibet and Tibetan regions.

We remain committed to engagement with China on human rights. Long term stability in Tibet can only be achieved through respect for human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibet within the framework of the Chinese constitution. We believe that meaningful dialogue between the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese authorities is the best way to make this happen.

Gilad Shalit

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to press for the immediate release of Corporal Gilad Shalit; and if he will make a statement. [62699]

Alistair Burt: We regularly hold discussions through our embassy in Tel Aviv about the release of Gilad Shalit with other EU and UN partners. Most recently, HMA Tel Aviv met with Gilad Shalit's family on 20 June. We continue to call for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally. We consider it unacceptable that the International Committee of the Red Cross is denied access to him. It is unacceptable that he has been held for five years without any Red Cross access.

On the Fifth anniversary of his capture the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) released a statement and I released a video message calling for Shalit's immediate and unconditional release.

Cyprus: British Nationals Abroad

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice his Department provides to British citizens who own property in the north of Cyprus on the Immoveable Property Commission; and if he will make a statement. [62162]

Mr Lidington: The British High Commission's website:

www.ukincyprus.fco.gov.uk

highlights several options open to British citizens who are experiencing property problems. We have not given specific advice to British Citizens on the Immovable Property Commission. As we make clear on the site, we cannot intervene in private legal disputes or give legal guidance. We encourage anyone with a property problem to seek independent legal advice.

EU Institutions: Secondment

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in the *(a)* European Parliament and *(b)* European Commission were seconded from Civil Service organisations in (i) Great Britain and (ii) Northern Ireland on the latest date for which figures are available. [60638]

Mr Lidington: The Northern Ireland Department for Enterprise, Trade and Industry (DETINI) has one secondee with the EU Commission.

The rest of the UK civil service has currently seconded:

89 members of staff to the EU Commission

two members of staff to the European Parliament

These figures are valid as of 15 June 2011.

Gilad Shalit

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress he has made in efforts to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit; [62688]

(2) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to seek to ensure access for the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Corporal Gilad Shalit; and if he will make a statement. [62690]

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the captivity of Corporal Gilad Shalit; [62689]

(2) what recent reports he has received on the condition of Corporal Gilad Shalit. [62691]

Alistair Burt: We regularly hold discussions through our embassy in Tel Aviv about the release of Gilad Shalit with other EU and UN partners. Most recently, HMA Tel Aviv met with Gilad Shalit's family on 20 June. We continue to call for Hamas to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally. We consider it unacceptable that the International Committee of the Red Cross is denied access to him. It is unacceptable that he has been held for five years without any Red Cross access.

On the fifth anniversary of his capture the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), released a statement and I released a video message calling for Shalit's immediate and unconditional release.

India: Prisoners

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the Indian government on Professor Davinderpal Singh Bhullar. [62354]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I wrote to the Indian high commissioner on 20 June, reiterating the UK Government's strong opposition to the death penalty and urging the Government of India to reconsider Mr Bhullar's sentence. We continue to urge the Government of India to establish a formal moratorium as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty in India.

India: Prosecutions

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with representatives of the Indian government on prosecutions of the perpetrators of the killing of Sikhs in that country in 1984. [62530]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have not had any discussions with the Indian Government on this matter. However, we maintain a dialogue with Indian officials about minority rights issues generally in India, including with regards to the Sikh community.

Israel: Prisoners

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the renewal of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas on a potential prisoner swap. [62602]

Alistair Burt: We are aware that there has been much press speculation about the possibility of a potential prisoner swap, however, we have not received any official reports on this.

The UK has long called for Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release. We continue to do so. On the fifth anniversary of his capture last week, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), issued a statement and I released a video message calling for Shalit's immediate and unconditional release. It is despicable that, five years on, he should still be held with the most basic of human rights denied to him.

North Africa: Democracy

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of the EU in supporting emerging democracies in north Africa and the middle east. [60466]

Mr Lidington: The European Neighbourhood Policy Review Communication was issued on 25 May. It is an ambitious offer to our reforming neighbours in north Africa and more widely: a new partnership with the EU based on greater economic integration, trade and increased funding for the southern neighbourhood of €750 million. It makes a clear link between levels of EU support and progress on political and economic reform.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking at the UN to support *(a)* free and democratic elections for the Palestinian Authority and *(b)* the establishment of the (i) right of free speech and (ii) rule of law in the area controlled by the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [62089]

Alistair Burt: We continue to await the formation of the Palestinian Government, but as the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) set out to the House on 7 June, the new Palestinian Authority should be formed of independent figures on

the basis that President Abbas set out on 4 May. It should continue to uphold the principles of non-violence, be committed to a negotiated solution, and accept previous agreements of the PLO. We also expect a future Palestinian Government to continue to uphold basic human rights principles, such as freedom of speech and the rule of law. The UK will judge a future Palestinian Government by its actions and its readiness to work for peace.

As I made clear in my statement of 16 February 2011, the UK welcomed the announcement by the Palestine Liberation Organization that it will hold national elections by September for all Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. We, together with our EU partners, stand ready to support the electoral process.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Tibetan government-in-exile on its recent election of a new leader. [62398]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has had no discussions with representatives of the Tibetan Government-in-exile on its recent election of a new leader.

Since 1980 the UK has not accorded recognition to Governments; we only accord recognition to states.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of religious freedom in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. [62399]

Mr Jeremy Browne: As highlighted in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Human Rights Command Paper 2010, we remain deeply concerned about the level of religious freedom in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China. We are particularly concerned about the restrictions placed on a number of monks and nuns by the Chinese Government, which restrict their access to religious institutions and interfere with their religious practice through "patriotic education campaigns".

We are concerned by recent reports of unrest at the Tibetan Buddhist Kirti Monastery in Sichuan Province. We have raised our concerns with both the Chinese embassy in London and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, asking for information and calling for restraint. I wrote to the Chinese ambassador on 3 May, raising my concerns about recent human rights developments, including the situation at Kirti Monastery.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of developing an integrated network of local support services to help parents make maintenance arrangements on separation. [60757]

Maria Miller: The proposals set out in the Green Paper "Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance" seek to encourage and support parents to recognise their ongoing responsibilities following separation, and to work together to make arrangements for maintenance that are in the best interests of their children. Enabling parents to access the support already available, both through Government-provided services and through the services offered by the voluntary and community sector, is absolutely central to our proposals.

Alongside our discussions with the voluntary and community sector about how best to facilitate the integration of support, we are working principally with the Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice to build the evidence base on what support works for different families. We need to understand how to target resources more efficiently to facilitate a more cost-effective and sustainable approach to supporting parents early in the process. We are also working with the devolved administrations, where family support is a devolved matter. Once we know which forms of support are most effective for different families we will be able to make sure resources are being used to best effect.

The Department for Education is already investing £30 million in relationship support services over the next four years, including their grants funding voluntary and community sector organisations to support separating couples. DWP currently spends around £5.6 million a year on information and support provided through the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

We will continue working with Department for Education and the Ministry of Justice—in the wider context of the independently-chaired Family Justice Review—to ensure our plans are as co-ordinated and coherent as possible.

The Government plans to publish their response to the Green Paper consultation shortly.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62077]

Chris Grayling: The following table details expenses paid to this Department's special advisers during the period May 2010 to March 2011. Please note that there are no unpaid special advisers employed in Government.

Travel expenditure	*May 2009 to March 2010 (£)*	*May 2010 to March 2011 (£)*	*Percentage reduction*
Rail costs	1,102	689.08	37
Air costs	8,214	277	96
Taxi costs	0	37.00	—
Hotel costs	652.90	79.00	87
Total	9316.00	1,082.08	88

Employment and Support Allowance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to reduce the length of time taken between the submission of an appeal on the refusal or withdrawal of *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance and the date of the hearing. [60831]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service to improve the clearance times for all social security and child support appeals.

Jobcentre Plus and the Pensions Disability and Carers Service are taking steps to improve the quality of initial decision-making and to improve the processes for reconsidering decisions before appeal so that all the relevant evidence can be obtained, and errors can be corrected and disputes resolved, at an early stage without the need for an appeal hearing.

The power in the Welfare Reform Bill to require claimants to apply for a decision to be revised before they are able to appeal to the tribunal should also enable more disputes to be resolved through the internal reconsideration process.

At the same time Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has responded strongly to the high level of appeals, which has led to increased waiting times for a hearing. HMCTS has significantly increased its capacity and 38% more social security and child support appeals were cleared in April 2011 compared to April 2010 (and 65% when compared to April 2009). It is continuing to increase its capacity through the recruitment of additional staff and judicial medical tribunal members as well as through a range of business improvements. As HMCTS continues to bring additional resources on line, the outstanding caseload is expected to continue to fall, reducing waiting times for tribunal hearings.

Source:

HMCTS nationally published management information

Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 824W, on Work Capability Assessment: mental health, whether the phase of an applicant's medication cycle is taken into account during an assessment. [62760]

Chris Grayling: The medication that a claimant is receiving is one of the factors that a health care professional takes into account during a face to face assessment.

Housing Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Bristol who will be restricted to the housing benefit shared accommodation rate if the age threshold is increased to 35; and what assessment he has made of the availability of low-priced shared accommodation for such people. [61046]

Steve Webb: Based on analysis of the local housing allowance case load in March 2010, it is estimated that 770 claimants in Bristol would have their local housing allowance reduced to the shared accommodation rate due to the extension of the age threshold to 35. The extent to which this will affect the availability of shared accommodation will depend on how claimants and landlords respond to this reduced entitlement.

No recent assessment has been made of the supply of shared accommodation in Bristol.

Not all of the affected claimants will necessarily seek to move into shared accommodation, and some landlords may respond to any shift in demand by making more properties available on a shared basis.

Source:

Equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has *(a)* commissioned or *(b)* evaluated any research on the perceptions of Jobcentre Plus users of the support available from Jobcentre Plus for those wanting to (i) become self-employed and (ii) start a business. [62053]

Chris Grayling: The Department has published qualitative and quantitative evaluation reports on support available to claimants of jobseekers allowance (JSA) under the Six-Month Offer, which was available from April 2009 to March 2011. These include sections on the support available to eligible JSA claimants who were interested in self-employment. The reports are available to download from the Research Report Series section of the DWP website (report numbers 691 and 699).

A longitudinal survey on the longer-term outcomes and experiences of claimants who accessed support under the Six-Month Offer has been undertaken and is scheduled to be published in August 2011. An initial impact analysis report on the Six-Month Offer is planned for late 2011 or early 2012 dependent on data supply and subsequent quality assurance. Later in 2012 there will be a final report on the impact analysis.

Jobcentre Plus: Scotland

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what face-to-face client services are provided at Jobcentre Plus centres in *(a)* Ayr, *(b)* Arbroath and *(c)* Clydebank. [60362]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what face-to-face client services are provided at Jobcentre Plus centres in (a) Ayr (b) Arbroath and (c) Clydebank. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated tome as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our Jobcentres in Ayr, Arbroath and Clydebank all provide the full range of face-to-face customer services. These include:

helping people find work using personal adviser support. Advisers assess and tailor the amount of support an individual needs through adviser interviews and using local provision;

conducting Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews, where we discuss job search and ensure people remain entitled to benefit by being available for and actively seeking work;

engaging in local partnerships, enabling the private, public and voluntary sectors to bring their expertise in helping individuals find work. We tailor our services to help people gain the support and skills training they need to move from benefits into work;

providing extra support through, for example, the 'Get Britain Working' measures and help for those engaging with us for the first time;

providing advice on the range of benefits available and explaining the conditions for receiving them, helping to prevent fraud and prevent people claiming more benefits than they are entitled to; and

making payments or loans from the Social Fund when individuals need additional financial support.

The closure of the contact centres will not affect face to face services and face-to-face centres are unaffected. The rationalisation of Jobcentre Plus offices can be completed without impacting on the service offered to customers. The contact centre network is virtual, meaning that calls are routed to the next available agent no matter where they are in the country. Similarly, customers do not actually have direct contact with benefit processing sites - benefit enquiry telephone calls are dealt with in the contact centre network.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many rapid reclaims for jobseeker's allowance were made in the last five years because the claimant had gone abroad for a short period. [61994]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available. The reasons for repeat claims are not collated centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of *(a)* 14 September 2010 and *(b)* 17 March 2011 from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on behalf of his constituents, Mr and Mrs Green. [61592]

Chris Grayling: In respect of his letter of 14 September 2010, a reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 27 September 2010.

Despite an extensive search, I am afraid the Department has no trace of the letter of 17 March 2011. If my right hon. Friend would send a copy, I will arrange for a reply to be sent as a matter of urgency.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S Prior. [62737]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the right hon. Member on 25 May 2011.

Older Workers

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of levels of discrimination against older people in *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* the workplace. [61781]

Chris Grayling: Levels of age discrimination in recruitment and the workplace are difficult to assess because discriminatory policies and practices can be hidden rather than being overt.

However the Department has undertaken a range of research to identify whether age discrimination does occur and, if so, its potential causes. Most comprehensively have been two large Surveys of Employers Policies, Practices and Preferences Relating to Age. The surveys were undertaken in 2006 and 2010 and are based on a sample of approximately 2,000 employers. The subsequent reports provide detail on a range of employment equal opportunity and recruitment practices. The reports are available on:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep325.pdf

and

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep682.pdf

Pathways to Work

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the months of reduced specialist service between the closure of the Pathways to Work programme and the commencement of the Work programme will contribute to the period for which those entitled to claim may claim contributory employment and support allowance once the changes scheduled for April 2012 are implemented; and if he will make a statement. [61813]

Chris Grayling: There has been no reduction of specialist support to help people with disabilities and health conditions move into employment. In April 2011 the Department put in place a new Jobcentre Plus based support regime for those with health conditions and disabilities, including those in receipt of incapacity benefits. This offered a much more flexible, tailored approach to support based on individual needs, not the rigid system of work focused interviews delivered through Pathways to Work. In the transition to the Work programme, the Department worked hard to ensure there were no gaps in provision. Now that the programme is live, people are receiving the more intensive, personalised support it offers.

The introduction of a one-year time-limit for people receiving contributory employment and support allowance in the work related activity group is scheduled for implementation in April 2012. For those claimants in the work-related activity group, time already spent on contributory employment and support allowance before the change is introduced will count towards the 365 day time limit. This is not affected by the level of support that was available to claimants through Pathways to Work or that is now available through the Work programme.

Personal Care Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legislation currently regulates the operation of *(a)* nail bars and *(b)* beauty salons; what changes have been made to such legislation since its enactment; whether any changes are planned in the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [62015]

Chris Grayling: The principal legislation applying to nail bars and hair salons is the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. This places duties on operators of nail bars and hair salons to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees and ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that customers are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 also place a duty on operators to prevent or control the exposure of their employees to hazardous substances including hazardous chemicals and micro-organisms. They also have a duty to prevent or control, so far as is reasonably practicable, exposure of customers to such substances.

There have been some amendments to this legislation since its original enactment although none which apply specifically or exclusively to nail bars or beauty salons.

There are no plans to introduce new health and safety legislation for nail bars or beauty salons.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the potential health risks of *(a)* (i) inhalation of and (ii) skin contact with (A) solvents, (B) lacquers and (C) acrylic polymers and *(b)* other activities undertaken during nail enhancement work; what guidance (1) his Department and (2) the Health and Safety Executive issue to nail salons and beauty salons about the use and safety of chemicals; and if he will make a statement. [62016]

Chris Grayling: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been aware for some time of the potential health risks to employees and customers from exposure to hazardous substances including chemicals and dust during nail enhancement work. HSE is also aware that nail technicians may experience musculoskeletal problems as a result of maintaining awkward working postures and performing highly repetitive tasks.

This was confirmed by recent research conducted by the Health and Safety Laboratory on behalf of HSE which surveyed practices and reported on health effects within the sector.

Operators of nail bars and beauty salons have a duty to assess these risks and take reasonably practicable measures to prevent or control them. To assist them in this, HSE has published guidance which sets out sensible and proportionate measures, which can be taken, to control both the risk of exposure to hazardous substances and of staff developing musculoskeletal disorders as a result of their work.

This guidance is freely downloadable from the HSE website.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward regulations to require *(a)* nail bars and *(b)* hair salons to ensure that nail tools are cleaned in between every use; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [62087]

Chris Grayling: The existing Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 place a duty on operators of nail bars and hair salons to prevent or control the exposure of their employees to hazardous substances including microbiological organisms. Operators also have a duty to prevent or control, so far as is reasonably practicable, exposure of their customers, to such substances.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advises that reusable equipment which comes into contact with the body should be decontaminated between clients. Nail tools would fall in to this category. This is a key way to prevent cross contamination of pathogens.

Social Security Benefits

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each five-year age group from 65 upwards receive *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* disability living allowance including the higher rate mobility component, *(c)* disability living allowance including the lower rate mobility component and *(d)* disability living allowance including only the care component; and what estimates his Department has made of the change in such figures consequent upon each planned increase in pension age. [60547]

Maria Miller: Tables 1 to 3, as follows, show the number of people in each five-year age group from the age of 65 upwards who received *(a)* attendance allowance, *(b)* disability living allowance by care award type, *(c)* disability living allowance by mobility award type in November 2010. Notes on all three tables are located in table 3.

Table 1: Attendance allowance—cases in payment by age and award type: November 2010

Age	Total	Higher rate	Lower rate	Nil rate
65 and over	1,626,910	925,200	701,710	—
65 to 69	55,170	31,930	23,240	—
70 to 74	178,150	102,750	75,400	—
75 to 79	303,020	173,590	129,430	—
80 to 84	416,750	235,430	181,320	—
85 to 89	404,390	225,820	178,570	—
90 and over	269,390	155,670	113,720	—

Table 2: Disability living allowance—cases in payment by age and care award type: November 2010

Age	Total	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lower rate	Nil rate
65 to 69	351,350	75,230	91,920	113,730	70,470
70 to 74	257,960	59,690	69,710	67,750	60,800
75 to 79	154,490	41,180	42,520	28,190	42,600
80 to 84	63,370	19,220	18,290	5,800	20,060
85 to 89	12,900	3,280	3,100	30	6,490
90 and over	1,890	450	440	—	990

Table 3: Disability living allowance—cases in payment by age and mobility award type: November 2010

Age	Total	Higher rate	Lower rate	Nil rate
65 to 69	351,350	273,840	42,600	34,910
70 to 74	257,960	208,740	24,800	24,410
75 to 79	154,490	130,170	12,230	12,090
80 to 84	63,370	56,100	4,010	3,270
85 to 89	12,900	12,880	10	10
90 and over	1,890	1,880	—	—

"—" Denotes nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Figures are published at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100% data

Amendments to the Pensions Act 1995 made by the Pensions Act 2007 and through provisions in the current Pensions Bill will align the age limits for disability living allowance and attendance allowance with the state pension age from the date those changes take effect. This change

will also be reflected in the qualifying criteria for personal independence payment and the consequence of those changes is that more people will be able to claim and receive personal independence payment and continue receipt of that benefit through beyond state pension age if they continue to satisfy the conditions of entitlement.

Table 4 shows the estimates of the impacts of the change in the state pension age (SPA) from 65 to 66 for both men and women between December 2018 and April 2020 in each financial year up to 2025-26 on the attendance allowance caseload. The impacts presented here were included in the overall impacts presented in Annex A of the Pensions Bill 2011 Impact Assessment[1].

[1] *Note:*

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-bill-2011-ia-annexa.pdf

Estimates of the change in the SPA from 66 to 67 between 2034 and 2036 and 67 to 68 between 2044 and 2046 are not provided, as forecasts do not extend that far into the future. Estimates of the impact of subsequent rises to 67 and 68 will be available after the OBR publish their Fiscal Sustainability Report on 13 July, and this may mean revisions to figures included here.

The design of personal independence payment is currently being developed and tested. Part of this testing will include longer-term projections for the personal independence payment caseload and these will reflect changes to the state pension age.

Table 4: The change in the number of individuals aged 65 and over receiving the benefit as a result of the change in state pension age from 65 to 66 between December 2018 and April 2020

Financial year	*Thousand AA*
2018-19	-1
2019-20	-4
2020-21	-8
2021-22	-13
2022-23	-18
2023-24	-23
2024-25	-25
2025-26	-24

Notes:
1. Following the increase in state pension age, it is assumed that the proportion of the population taking up AA at the new qualifying age is equivalent to that taking it up at the previous (lower) qualifying age. Thus if x% of those aged 64 are projected to claim AA when the state pension age was 65, when the latter rises to 66, x% of those aged 65 are assumed to claim AA. Since these individuals would continue to claim the benefit after reaching the new SPA, the impact on caseload of an increase in the qualifying age is likely to increase over time.
2. Estimates relate only to the period up to 2025-26, as this is also the end of the Impact Assessment period.
3. A positive number means an increase in the caseload and a negative number a decrease in projected caseload for the particular year.
Source:
DWP analysis

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many active benefit claimants claim *(a)* only jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* only employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group, *(c)* housing benefit in addition to an active benefit and *(d)* council tax benefit in addition to an active benefit. [62290]

Chris Grayling: The information requested in respect of parts *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The information we do have to answer part *(a)* on claimants receiving jobseeker's allowance (JSA) only, is shown in the following table.

We have also included in the tables further information that we can provide. Although this does not give a full answer to parts *(b)*, *(c)* or *(d)* it does show the total number of employment and support allowance (ESA) cases only and in addition the number of housing benefit/council tax benefit (HB/CTB) recipients receiving JSA (income based).

Working age client group for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and employment support allowance ESA only—November 2010

	Number
JSA only	1,294,280
ESA only	431,720

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been supplied.
2. State pension age: The age at which women reach state pension age will gradually increase from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020. This will introduce a small increase to the number of working age benefit recipients and a small reduction to the number of pension age recipients. Figures from May 2010 onwards reflect this change. For more information see
http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/espa.pdf
3. These figures are of claimants receiving JSA or ESA and no other key DWP benefit (not including HB/CTB).
4. The data included in the table is available from the Department's tabulation tool at
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit claimants in receipt of JSA (IB)—March 2011

	Housing benefit	*Council tax benefit*
In receipt of JSA (IB)	611,710	605,230

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and March 2011 is the most recent available.
4. We have taken active benefit to be jobseeker's allowance.
5. The data included in the table is available from the Department's tabulation tool at
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

Universal Credit

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what options he is considering for the administration of free school meals entitlement through the proposed universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [62438]

Chris Grayling: Defining entitlement to certain passported benefits is the responsibility of other Government Departments and devolved Administrations. Free school meals are the responsibility of Department for Education.

The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) have been commissioned to carry out an independent review on passported benefits on behalf of the Government and will present advice in a non-binding report by the end of January 2012.

SSAC have launched a public consultation looking at passported benefits and this can be found on the SSAC website:

http://ssac.independent.gov.uk/consult.shtml

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many work capability assessments received zero points on initial assessment and were passed on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available; [61405]

(2) how many people received between zero and six points in a work capability assessment and were passed on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [61406]

Chris Grayling: Decisions on entitlement to employment and support allowance (ESA) rest solely with the Department's decision-makers who take into account the medical assessment reports from Atos and any other relevant information.

At the work capability assessment (WCA), a claimant's physical function and mental, cognitive and intellectual function is assessed. Within these categories there are a series of descriptors, scoring between 0 and 15 points. Claimants scoring 15 points in any category or combination of categories will be assessed as having a limited capability for work and placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG).

If a claimant appeals against a fit for work decision at initial assessment and the appeal subsequently finds in favour of the appellant, this does not necessarily mean that the original decision was incorrect. In many cases new or additional evidence is provided to the tribunal which was not available to the decision-maker, or the tribunal weighs the evidence differently.

The following table presents the points scored and appeal outcomes for ESA claims received between October 2008 and February 2010, who were found fit for work at the initial WCA and subsequently appealed the decision. Figures are only available for appeals that have been completed and not those that are currently under way.

Points scored at initial WCA, for claims found fit for work where an appeal has been heard by the Tribunals Service

Points scored at initial WCA	*Claims found fit for work at initial WCA*	*Appeals finding in favour of claimant*	*Appeals upholding DWP decision*	*All appeals heard*
0 points	246,700	29,000	56,100	85,000
Between 0 and 6 points	57,000	11,100	12,500	23,600
Over 6 points	25,500	7,600	4,300	11,900
Unknown	6,800	400	1,600	2,000
Total	335,900	48,000	74,400	122,500

The data presented above come from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions, functional assessment data from Atos Healthcare and appeals data from the Tribunals Service. The "unknown" category refers to claims where no assessment data are recorded—this may be because the WCA was performed clerically. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Appeals data are only available for claims starting up to February 2010.

The above data are consistent with that published in the recent official statistics report: 'Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment By Health Condition and Functional Impairment'. This report is available on the departmental website at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 the Government Equalities Office is responsible; and what European directives for which the Government Equalities Office is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60693]

Lynne Featherstone: As of 1 April 2011, the Government Equalities Office has been part of the Home Office and is no longer a separate Government Department. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer from the Minister for Crime and Security, the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire), on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 579-81W.

Parental Leave

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the effects on women workers of implementation of proposed reforms of parental leave. [61797]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Modern Workplaces consultation sets out proposals for a new system of flexible parental leave which will protect mothers' rights while giving families more choice and flexibility over how they can share their work and caring responsibilities. The proposals mean that working mothers will be better able to keep in touch with their employer, and we believe they will also aid career progression for working mothers and help to tackle pregnancy discrimination.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Expenditure

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of his private office in May *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [62661]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My private office consisting of private secretaries, special advisers and support staff, was formed following the creation of the Government in May 2010. Since this was partway through the month, figures for the month of May 2010 are not available.

The total cost of my private office in May 2011 is estimated to be £111,568.93.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will withdraw RAF fixed wing aircraft and associated RAF manpower from Afghanistan. [61974]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* RAF fixed wing aircraft and their crews make an important contribution to the international effort in Afghanistan. We will continue to keep our force levels and deployed capabilities under review.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF fixed wing aircraft are in Afghanistan; and how many personnel by rank and duty are deployed on the operation. [61975]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The UK fixed-wing manned aircraft currently based in Afghanistan are the GR4 Tornado and the C-130 Hercules. There are currently eight UK Tornado GR4 aircraft and three UK C-130 Hercules deployed in Afghanistan.

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, the roulement of forces, and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

Air Force

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent representations he has received from the Commander in Chief Air Command on the RAF's capacity to meet its operational tasks now and in the future; [62295]

(2) what recent representations he has received from the First Sea Lord on the Royal Navy's capacity to meet its operational tasks now and in the future. [62297]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Defence and I have frequent dialogue with senior armed forces personnel regarding the services' capacity to meet current and future tasks.

Air Force Board: Public Appointments

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the members are of the Air Force Board. [61936]

Mr Robathan: The Air Force Board comprises:

Secretary of State for Defence (Chairman)

Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Minister for International Security Strategy

Minister of State for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology

Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)

2nd Permanent Secretary (2nd PUS) (Secretary)

Commander-in-Chief Air Command

Air Member for Personnel (Deputy Commander-in-Chief Personnel)

Air Member for Materiel (Chief of Materiel (Air))

Air Member for Equipment Capability (Director (Information Superiority))

Assistant Chief of the Air Staff.

Meetings of the Air Force Board also include two non-executive directors drawn from outside the Department and will take place as required, but with at least one meeting annually.

Future Combat Air Capability

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purpose is of the Future Combat Air Capability study; and when he expects it to report. [62282]

Peter Luff: The Future Combat Air Capability study is a rolling programme of analysis that will be used to inform both current planning activity and future strategic defence reviews. Its purpose is to explore, within the current policy context, the most cost-effective mix of current and future airborne platforms to meet the Department's future force requirements. For example, output from the study was used to inform the strategic defence and security review in 2010.

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the task of recovering carrier aviation capability to support non-short take off and vertical landing fixed-wing aircraft and *(b)* the complexity of forming a joint Royal Navy and RAF force for this purpose. [62457]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* We plan to regenerate a carrier strike capability from around 2020, based upon an operational Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier fitted with catapults and arrester gear and the F35C joint strike fighter.

The joint strike fighter fleet will be jointly manned by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy in a similar way to the jointly manned Harrier Force. Navy and Air Commands are developing plans to sustain and then re-grow the skills and experience required to regenerate carrier strike capability. The transition plan includes a full analysis of all of the roles involved in delivering the new capability and a plan to deliver trained personnel to fill those posts in time to meet the introduction to service schedule.

The move to the F35-C (carrier variant) joint combat aircraft and the associated modifications to the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier will provide the UK with a world class capability in the decades to come.

Air Force: Ammunition

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the Royal Air Force's level of munitions reserves; and if he will make a statement. [61932]

Nick Harvey: Royal Air Force munitions reserves are kept under constant review by a stock-pile steering group to ensure continuing security of supply; there are sufficient stockholdings to meet anticipated operational demand.

Air Force: Manpower

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the duties of an Aerospace Battle Manager are; how many people are serving in such posts; at what ranks; and how many are deployed on operations. [62285]

Nick Harvey: The duties of the Aerospace Battle Manager encompass the provision of air surveillance, air weapons control and space surveillance tasks. These include the monitoring of airspace to determine the identify of unknown aircraft, control and co-ordination of air defence and support aircraft for air policing and combat missions, detection and warning of ballistic missile launches and the provision of air and space surveillance data to Navy and Army commanders.

The number of Aerospace Battle Managers by rank in the branch as at 1 May 2011 is as follows:

Rank	*Number of Aerospace Battle Managers*
Air Commodore	2
Group Captain	8
Wing Commander	57
Squadron Leader	111
Flight Lieutenant	149
Flying Officer	62
Pilot Officer	30

The number of Aerospace Battle Managers currently deployed on operations in the UK is 165 personnel and those outside of the UK, including the Falkland Islands, is 27 personnel.

Air Force: Recruitment

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding was allocated to the RAF for recruitment purposes in each category of expenditure in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [62341]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Funding for RAF recruitment in the years requested is as follows:

£ million

RAF recruitment costs categories	*Actual spend financial year 2010-11*	*Forecast spend financial year 2011-12*
Manpower	22.161	15.696
Marketing	3.189	7.918
Armed forces careers offices	1.624	1.764
Other costs (including sponsorships, travel and subsistence, administration, vehicle hire and contracts)	6.403	6.273
Total	33.377	31.651

Costs shown for financial year 2011-12 are forecast expenditure and can change during the year. While it is planned to reduce the RAF in size, trained personnel in the right areas are still required and targeted recruitment needs to be maintained.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many senior aircraftmen were recruited to their posts in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and how many he expects to be recruited in 2011-12. [62343]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Personnel are recruited into the RAF at the rank of Aircraftman (AC) and then as they progress through training and service attain the rank of Senior Aircraftman (SAC).

The following table provides information relating to the number of airmen/airwomen recruited into posts in the RAF:

	Number of individuals recruited
2008-09	3,704
2009-10	3,014
2010-11	1,102

As at 23 June 2011, the forecasted number of individuals expected to enter phase one training at AC rank in 2011-12 is 1,701.

Air Force: Training

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to the public purse was of training an individual senior aircraftman in the latest period for which figures are available. [62342]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Senior aircraftmen receive training packages tailored to their particular trade, and there are 60 different trade groups. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision has been made for *(a)* carrier-borne air-to-air refuelling capability and *(b)* fixed-wing carrier on-board delivery for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier; and what the in-service date is for each capability. [62458]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The strategic defence and security review announced the decision to procure the carrier variant of the joint strike fighter to operate from the new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier from around 2020. We are currently studying the most cost-effective way to provide an embarked air-to-air refuelling capability and assessing potential solutions for the Queen Elizabeth class on-board delivery requirement.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the pension rights of veterans who retired before 5 April 1975; and if he will make a statement. [61369]

Mr Robathan: Prior to 1975 there were no rights to preserved pensions in any public or private pension schemes. Most schemes had very restricted qualifying criteria for the award of pensions. For instance, armed forces occupational pensions were awarded only if a member had completed at least 16 years reckonable service as an officer or 22 years reckonable service as an other rank. Reckonable service is paid service after age 21 for officers or after age 18 for other ranks.

Armed Forces: Retirement

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-servicemen and women who served for three or more years and fewer than 22 years retired before 5 April 1975. [61413]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowances his Department provides to new entrant officers in each of the services for *(a)* No. 2 Dress Uniform and *(b)* Dress Kit. [60503]

Mr Robathan: All officer cadets are issued with No. 2 dress uniforms. Naval service and RAF personnel are also issued with dress kit, while in the army, due to the variety of regimental uniforms, it is more cost effective for personnel to be provided with an allowance to cover the cost of their dress kit. This one off allowance ranges from £1,900 to £2,122.

Armed Services

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the present establishment of the RAF to undertake its tasks; [61930]

(2) with reference to the recent remarks of the First Sea Lord, if he will take urgent steps to reduce the workload of the Royal Navy; [61931]

(3) what plans he has to reduce the workload of the Royal Air Force. [61976]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Strategic Defence and Security Review set out the adaptable posture that determines the structure of the armed forces. It distinguishes between different types of commitments for planning purposes. This allows our forces to be flexible enough to deal with unforeseen events, as well as maintaining other long-standing commitments.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60717]

Mr Robathan: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is a cross-Government initiative.

All departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

Departments are engaging with their stakeholders on issues relating to the employment law review in accordance with their standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Crown Relocations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds with Crown Relocations; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58647]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's financial management shared service centre contracts database does not show any contracts as having been placed with Crown Relocations.

Defence Equipment: Costs

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the near cash projected spending on the Equipment Plan and Equipment Support Plan is for each year to 2015. [62105]

Peter Luff: The planned near cash spending for the Equipment Procurement Plan and the Equipment Support Plan is as follows:

£ billion

Financial year	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Equipment procurement	6.6	6.6	7.3	7.2
Equipment support	6.4	6.5	6.8	7.4

Planned spending in financial year 2012-13 and beyond will be reviewed as part of the Ministry of Defence's routine planning process. This will take into account the outcome of a range of work currently under way, including the three month exercise.

Defence: Reform

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he plans to make a statement on Defence Reform following the publication of the report of Lord Levene; [60528]

(2) what his timetable is for the implementation of the recommendations of Lord Levene's report on Defence Reform; [60530]

(3) when he plans to announce the results of the Defence Reform Review led by Lord Levene. [62283]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 634-36.

Departmental Internet

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on its website since May 2010. [59538]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites.

From 2009-10, the costs of the MOD corporate websites have been published centrally in an annual report on central Government websites. The annual report for 2009-10 is available as a House of Commons paper (HC367). The report for 2010-11 is due to be published at the end of June 2011.

The Ministry of Defence is progressively reducing the number of departmental websites in accordance with the Cabinet Office website review in order to achieve cost and efficiency savings. To date the Department has closed a total of 115 websites/URLs, as listed on The National Archives' UK Government Website Database, the official listing of the Government's web estate, with

eight more sites committed to close by 30 June 2011. We continue to monitor the Department's web presence and to seek opportunities to reduce costs in line with the Government's digital strategy.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61709]

Mr Robathan: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data, and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service.

The Defence Analytical Services and Advice organisation (DASA) already publishes periodic reports on Ministry of Defence (MOD) personnel numbers on its internet site at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

The DASA site contains the civilian personnel statistics quarterly return. Although this report does not currently contain all the information requested for civilian employees, its content has recently been reviewed and changes will be introduced for future editions. Those changes will include numbers of staff leaving MOD Trading Funds and their reasons for doing so.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61672]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence expects all suppliers to maintain high standards of integrity and professionalism in their business dealings adhering to the laws of the countries where they operate. The Department's standard contractual terms reflect this. There are no specific terms relating to 'behavioural standards'.

Departmental Responsibilities

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department is making in *(a)* financial management (i) in-year and (ii) long-term, *(b)* restructuring its headquarters and other major headquarters and *(c)* restructuring Defence Equipment and Support. [60525]

Dr Fox: These issues are addressed by Lord Levene's work on Defence Reform, which I announced in my statement on 27 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 634-36. We have already made significant progress in some areas. In particular, as part of the changes to corporate services I announced we are strengthening the role of the Director General Finance and his staff; I have established the Major Projects Review Board, which met for the first time on 13 June 2011; and the Chief of Defence Materiel has initiated a fundamental review of the effectiveness of Defence Materiel acquisition and support to produce The Materiel Strategy.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what overseas visits he has undertaken since May 2010. [62294]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Details of overseas travel undertaken by Defence Ministers are published on a quarterly basis at the following address:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/

The period May to December 2010 has been published and copies of the details will be placed in the Library of the House. Information covering the period January to March 2011 will be published in due course at the website address given above.

Devonport Dockyard

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work his Department has undertaken to identify any cost differential entailed in moving submarines from Devonport to Faslane for maintenance. [61819]

Peter Luff: Work is ongoing to implement the decision to make HM Naval Base (HMNB) Clyde the main operating base for all of the UK's submarines. The deep maintenance of all submarines will continue to be conducted in Devonport. As the engineering support for submarines at HMNB Clyde will be delivered by the same contractor using similar materials and man hours, we have assessed that the cost of submarine maintenance will remain broadly the same.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the marinisation of the Typhoon fighter plane. [61123]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 201W. The Ministry of Defence reaffirmed its commitment to the Joint Strike Fighter to meet the carrier strike capability in the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

European Fighter Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many spares for the Typhoon aircraft have been purchased beyond those already ordered as part of the Typhoon Availability Service since 19 March 2011; what the cost was to the public purse of the purchase of such spares; and whether the purchase cost was met by the Treasury Contingency Reserve. [62180]

Peter Luff: No additional Typhoon spares have been purchased since 19 March 2011 above those already ordered for planned flying operations. The Typhoon Availability Service contract is not a spares purchasing contract but an availability service contract.

Ex-servicemen: Prisoners

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of prisoners in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland who had previously served in the armed forces. [61411]

Mr Robathan: With regards to estimates of the number of prisoners in England and Wales who had previously served in the armed forces, I refer the hon. Member to the joint statement I made with the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt), on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

Work continues to investigate ways of identifying ex-service personnel in prison in Scotland. However, there are no immediate plans to conduct a similar exercise in Northern Ireland.

HMS Endurance

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date he expects the replacement for HMS Endurance to be fully operational. [62449]

Peter Luff: HMS Protector, the interim replacement ship for HMS Endurance, was commissioned into the Royal Navy fleet on 23 June. On current projections, it will depart Portsmouth towards the end of this year to conduct its first deployment to the Antarctic.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of refitting the replacement for HMS Endurance. [62450]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs Moon) on 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 537-38W.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the through life costs of *(a)* 138 and *(b)* 60 Joint Combat Aircraft. [62179]

Peter Luff: No final decision has yet been taken on the overall numbers of Joint Strike Fighter aircraft we intend to order, which will not be made before the next strategic defence review. The through life costs of the programme will be determined as main investment decision points are reached. The Ministry of Defence does not publish estimates prior to such decision points as to do so could prejudice commercial interests.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the basic combat radius is of the F-35 Lightning-11 C-model. [62281]

Peter Luff: The threshold performance of the Carrier Variant (CV) JSF F35C is 600 nautical miles.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* F-35A and *(b)* F-35C aircraft his Department proposes to purchase between 2018 and 2025; [61903]

(2) what estimate he has made of the lifetime maintenance costs of his Department's complement of *(a)* F-35A and *(b)* F-35C aircraft. [61904]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* As announced in the strategic defence and security review we plan to acquire the carrier variant of joint strike fighter, the F-35C, to meet our operational requirements. We do not plan to purchase the F-35A.

We have yet to make final decisions on the timing and overall numbers of F-35C aircraft we intend to order and will not do so before the next planned strategic defence review. The costs of the programme will be determined prior to its main investment decision points. The Ministry of Defence does not publish estimates prior to such decision points as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the reserve allocated to the military campaign in pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 is available to be spent. [61928]

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the contribution of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 145, on what date he plans to provide an update to the House on the full costs of operations in Libya; and if he will make a statement to this House on the matter on that date. [62443]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* I refer the hon. Members to the statement I made on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS.

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the potential for proliferation of portable anti-aircraft missiles from looted arms depots in Libya. [61951]

Nick Harvey: We continue to assess the situation in Libya closely, including the potential proliferation of man-portable anti-aircraft missiles. The threat from these weapons is taken into account before undertaking any military missions over Libya.

Libya: Harrier Aircraft

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the sale of Harrier aircraft on the UK's participation in military operations in Libya. [61949]

Nick Harvey: The Harrier fleet was retired from service on 15 December 2010 and is currently in storage. Disposal options are currently being considered for the Harrier airframes.

The decision to retire our Harrier fleet has had no significant effect on the UK's participation in military operations over Libya.

Military Decorations

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had discussions on introducing a National Defence Medal to recognise those who served during the Cold War period. [61551]

Mr Robathan: There have been various discussions regarding the institution of a National Defence Medal including a short debate on 8 February 2011, *Official Report,* columns 50-58WH. The Minister for the Armed Forces met a representative of the National Defence Medal Campaign in April.

The Ministry of Defence recognises that some former service personnel, including those who served during the Cold War period, feel that their service has not been appropriately recognised, and that the institution of such a medal would address this. However, it would be inappropriate to comment further until the current review of the rules governing the award of medals has been concluded.

Nimrod Aircraft: USA

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the US Navy on the use of the P-8 Poseidon as a replacement for the *(a)* Nimrod MR2 and *(b)* Nimrod MR4A. [62104]

Peter Luff: Discussions have taken place with the US Government regarding maritime patrol aircraft capability. However, the Department currently has no plans to lease or buy Poseidon-8 aircraft.

Office of Chief Coroner

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with (i) the Secretary of State for Justice and (ii) the Minister for the Cabinet Office on the decision not to establish the Office of Chief Coroner. [62148]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Ministers have engaged with the Ministry of Justice and Cabinet Office on this matter. I refer the right hon. Member to the statement made by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice on 12 June 2011, *Official Report,* columns 64-66WS, in which he details the Government's plans for coroner reform, including the inclusion of the office of Chief Coroner in Schedule 5 of the Public Bodies Bill.

Royal Military Academy: Admissions

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the nationality was of each student enrolled at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011. [62452]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The nationalities of Officer Cadets enrolled at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011 are shown in the following table:

Country	*Count*
Afghanistan	7
Albania	5
USA	6
Armenia	1
Azerbaijan	1
Bahrain	12
Belize	2
Botswana	1
Brunei	3
China	5
Georgia	1
Ghana	3
Iraq	3
Jamaica	3
Jordan	8
Kazakhstan	1
Kenya	2
Kuwait	6
Lebanon	1
Luxemburg	2
Malaysia	2
Malta	2
Morocco	1
Nepal	2
Nigeria	2
Oman	12
Pakistan	4
Palestine	2
Qatar	6
Rwanda	3
Saudi Arabia	5
Singapore	2
Swaziland	1
Thailand	2
Tonga	2
U.A.E.	19
Uganda	4
Yemen	6
UK	597

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to produce his Defence and Security Industrial and Technology Policy. [62279]

Peter Luff: We plan to publish a White Paper on our approach to equipment, support, and technology for UK Defence and Security later this year.

Tornado Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many spares for the Tornado aircraft have been purchased above those already ordered as part of the Availability Transformation Tornado Aircraft contract since 19 March 2011; what the cost was to the public purse for the purchase of such spares; and whether the purchase cost was met by the Treasury Contingency Reserve. [62181]

Peter Luff: The RAF Tornado GR4 fleet is supported by an Availability Transformation Tornado Aircraft contract (ATTAC) with BAE Systems which includes aircraft maintenance, spares and technical support. The

contract is designed to ensure that the RAF has the required number of aircraft available to carry out its operational and training commitments; this includes the current flying operations in Libya.

The contract does not however, require BAE Systems to separately identify any additional spares that might have been required in support of specific operations.

Trident

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the study to review the costs, feasibility and credibility of alternative systems and postures to the Trident missile delivery system will include the use of deterrents such as the intelligence services, Special Forces, or other capabilities available in the defence and security economy. [60883]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* No. The purpose of the study is to examine alternative forms of nuclear deterrence, including alternative delivery systems and platforms, and to analyse their potential risks, benefits, and feasibility.

WE. 177 Nuclear Bomb

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the WE.177 missile programme was *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* in 2011 prices up to the date of its withdrawal from service; and what the cost of procurement of each missile was. [46277]

Peter Luff: I will write to the hon. Member, as the information requested may take some time to retrieve from archive.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Tessa Munt:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 17 March 2011 (Official Report, column 516W) about the cost details of the WE.177 nuclear weapon programme. I apologise for the delay in writing to you; this has been due to the need for The National Archives (TNA) to review their file holdings.

The WE.177 free-fall bombs were in service with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy for over 30 years, and were finally retired in 1998. Due to the length of time that this weapon has been out of service, many files have been placed in TNA, although a considerable number are retained within the Ministry of Defence's own archives, as well as those of the Atomic Weapons Establishment. It would be necessary to retrieve and examine all of these files to identify whether they hold relevant information. If the information was located - which is by no means certain - we would then need to extract and collate the information and update historic costs going back over 30 years to a 2011 price base to answer your question. This would require significant effort and could therefore only be done at disproportionate cost.

I know that this response will be disappointing to you but I do hope that you will appreciate why I feel that it would be inappropriate to ask for such a significant amount of work to be undertaken in the circumstances described.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Arts: Immigration Control

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK under each approved Tier 5 Government-authorised exchange scheme in each year between 2000 and 2010. [60023]

Damian Green: The Government Authorised Exchange sub-category of Tier 5 of the Points Based System was introduced in November 2008. The available statistics relate to the number of journeys made by passengers given leave to enter the UK in 2008, 2009 and January to June 2010 in the Points Based System Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange sub-category. Figures for July to December 2010 will be published on 25 August 2011.

The statistics are given in the following table. It is not possible to separately identify data relating to individual schemes nor are such data available for previous periods.

Passengers[1] given leave to enter the United Kingdom under the PBS[2] Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange[3] category, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2008-10

	Number of journeys
2008 November to December	—
2009[4]	350
2010 January to June[4]	135

[1] Figures rounded to five.
[2] Points Based System(PBS)
[3] The Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange category was introduced in November 2008.
[4] Provisional figures
Source:
Migration Statistics, Home Office Statistics.

Statistics on journeys made by passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey are published half yearly in the quarterly Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary. These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/

Asylum: Deportation

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportations of failed asylum seekers formerly resident in Sunderland Central constituency there have been in the last 12 months. [61898]

Damian Green: There were 14 failed asylum seekers formerly resident in Sunderland Central constituency removed between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Crime: Diplomatic Service

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures police forces follow to request a waiver of immunity in cases where they are investigating a crime suspected to have been committed by a foreign diplomat; how many police officers have received training on this procedure; and in how many cases this procedure has been followed to its conclusion in relation to trafficking of migrant domestic workers by foreign diplomats in the latest period for which figures are available. [60842]

Nick Herbert: The UK demands a high standard of behaviour of its diplomats, and we expect the same of diplomats from other countries here in the UK. Under

the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations those entitled to immunity are expected to respect the laws of the UK.

The police investigate any allegation that the law has been broken by diplomats entitled to immunity and report the results to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Full account is taken of the nature and seriousness of the offence and appropriate action is taken. This can include a request for immunity to be waived to allow the police to investigate further, or a request for the immediate withdrawal of the diplomat concerned.

We do not have a record of the number of police officers who have received training on this procedure.

During 2010, 15 offences deemed serious (attracting a penalty of 12 months' or more imprisonment, including certain driving offences) were reported to the FCO, one of which was an alleged case of human trafficking.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs is to table information on waivers of diplomatic immunity this month, as part of the annual written ministerial statement on offences and debts.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many invoices received by her Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62485]

Damian Green: For the period from May 2010 to May 2011 the Home Department paid 68,114 of compliant invoices on time, and 10,663 late. The monetary value of invoices paid late was £223,787,312.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of her Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61713]

Damian Green: I can confirm information on changes in the number of the Department's employees is published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as part of its Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). Published ACSES data are available on the ONS website, at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

The latest available data, as at 31st March 2010, can be found under 'civil service 2010 tables' in table 9 (giving information on the whole civil service) and table 40 (giving information on the Home Office and its agencies).

ONS collects data from across the civil service on reason for leaving (for those employees who left the civil service in the 12 months up to the survey date, usually 31 March each year). ONS is currently working closely with Departments to improve the quality of information that is supplied. However, this is an annual survey and there are currently no plans to change the frequency of collection.

The Home Office is fully committed to meeting the Government's transparency agenda and is actively considering ways to make more of its key HR data more readily available. However, the Department has clear obligations to its employees to ensure that personal data are not released, and that they are not published at a level that could lead to the inappropriate identification of individual employees. In addition, and in line with the Statistics Authority code of practice, the Department has a responsibility to ensure that any data released are reliable and of a good quality, and any change in reporting frequency and content needs to be agreed with ONS and the Chief Statistician.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by her Department since May 2010. [61671]

Damian Green: The Home Department uses standard terms and conditions similar to those used across Government to procure a wide range of goods and services. These contracts do not contain specific provisions in respect of behavioural standards. Contracts for more complex requirements let prior to and since May 2010 contain provisions to promote industry best practice but not specifically behavioural standards.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61727]

Damian Green: The Home Office is currently in consultation with its arm's length bodies to establish work force plans for the spending review period. These are not yet finalised. We are committed to active redeployment for colleagues who become surplus and have developed policies to ensure surplus staff get preferential access to vacancies. Our policy is to avoid compulsory redundancy wherever possible.

Departmental Termination of Employment

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many managers at grade C or above have left the employment of her Department in the last two financial years; and how many of those managers have subsequently been employed by *(a)* Serco, *(b)* G4S and *(c)* any other private sector company holding contracts with her Department. [59780]

Damian Green: In the financial year 2009-10, 1,144 managers at grade C or above left the Department. In the financial year 2010-11, 1,404 managers at grade C or above left the Department. (Figures are provided as per Office for National Statistics headcount definition—paid civil servants only).

The Department fully complies with the rules and guidance set out by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments regarding employment of ex-civil servants—see:

http://acoba.independent.gov.uk/rules_and_guidance_civil_servants.aspx

We are unable to provide data on the number of managers who have subsequently been employed by *(a)* Serco, *(b)* G4S and *(c)* any other private sector company holding contracts with the Department. Individuals at Director General and Permanent Secretary level who are given permission under the Rules and Guidance on Business Appointments must inform the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments if they take up employment following approval. Individuals below this level are not required to notify the Department that they have taken up employment following approval.

Deportation: Tamils

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of citizens of Commonwealth countries of Tamil ethnicity who have *(a)* been held for removal to Sri Lanka by the UK Border Agency (UKBA), *(b)* been booked by the UKBA onto flights for removal to Sri Lanka, *(c)* attempted acts of self-harm while awaiting removal to Sri Lanka, *(d)* committed suicide while awaiting removal to Sri Lanka and *(e)* been removed to Sri Lanka since May 2009. [61820]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records details of individuals on the basis of nationality only, rather than ethnicity.

(a) There are currently 95 Sri Lankan nationals in detention.

(b) 10 Sri Lankan nationals currently have arrangements in place for their return to Sri Lanka

(c) It is not possible to establish the total numbers of attempted acts of self-harm from May 2009 without reviewing each and every case record

(d) No individuals have committed suicide while awaiting return to Sri Lanka

(e) Between 1 May 2009 and 31 March 2011, 1,025 Sri Lankan nationals were removed.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of Commonwealth countries of Tamil ethnicity who have been removed to Sri Lanka by the UK Border Agency have returned to the UK and subsequently been granted leave to remain; whether she has received any reports of the torture or maltreatment of such persons while in Sri Lanka; and if she will make a statement. [61821]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records details of individuals on the basis of nationality only, rather than ethnicity.

Since May 2009, the UK Border Agency records indicate that two Sri Lankans who have previously been removed by the UK Border Agency have subsequently returned and made applications to remain in the UK. One application was unsuccessful and one is still under consideration.

The UK Border Agency carefully considers all applications, including asylum claims on their individual merits, in accordance with UK international obligations and against the background of the latest available country information. It is open to an individual applicant to submit any evidence in support of that application, including allegations of mistreatment.

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any citizen of Commonwealth countries of Tamil ethnicity booked on a chartered flight to Sri Lanka by the UK Border Agency on 16 June 2011 attempted acts of self-harm before take-off of the flight; and if she will make a statement. [61822]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency records details of individuals on the basis of nationality only, rather than ethnicity.

One subject attempted an act of self-harm prior to the flight. He was confirmed by a medical practitioner as being fit to travel.

Entry Clearances: Pay

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of regional variations in salary in establishing minimum salary requirements for the issue of visas. [62454]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's codes of practice specifying the minimum salary requirements for employers seeking to sponsor non-EEA workers under Tier 2 of the points based system are drawn from the most appropriate and robust sources of national salary data for particular occupations. In general, these sources do not specify different minimum salary levels for different parts of the United Kingdom.

Foreign Workers

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intra-company transfer visas the UK Borders Agency has issued to *(a)* Indian and *(b)* other non-EU nationals employed by (i) Intelenet Global Services, (ii) Atos Origin and (iii) Hewlett Packard in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [62045]

Damian Green: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Visas issued financial year 2010-11 PBS Tier 2—intra company transfers

		Sponsor		
Month	*Nationality*	*Intelenet Global Services*	*Atos Origin*	*Hewlett Packard*
2010				
April	Indian	1—	10	2—
	Other Non-EU	1—	1—	2—
May	Indian	1—	15	10
	Other Non-EU	1—	5	1—
June	Indian	1—	5	5
	Other Non-EU	1—	2—	1—
July	Indian	1—	10	5

Visas issued financial year 2010-11 PBS Tier 2—intra company transfers

Month	Nationality	Sponsor: Intelenet Global Services	Sponsor: Atos Origin	Sponsor: Hewlett Packard
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
August	Indian	[1]—	15	10
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
September	Indian	[1]—	5	10
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	5
October	Indian	[1]—	[1]—	15
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—
November	Indian	[1]—	10	10
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
December	Indian	[1]—	15	5
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2011				
January	Indian	[1]—	10	5
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—
February	Indian	[1]—	5	5
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
March	Indian	[1]—	5	5
	Other Non-EU	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—

[1] Represents nil.
[2] Represents one or two
Note:
All figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 36-8WS, on immigration, what her policy is on the intra-company transfer visa process; and whether she plans to conduct a public consultation on intra-company transfer visas. [62046]

Damian Green: The Government carried out a public consultation on the economic migration routes between 28 June and 17 September last year, including specific questions on intra-company transfers (ICTs). The results were incorporated into new rules applying to ICTs from 6 April.

The ICT route does not give migrants a pathway to permanent residence in the UK and they must leave after a maximum of five years. Therefore they are not relevant to the proposals in the consultation document referred to in the written ministerial statement of 9 June.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects of a free trade agreement between the EU and India on the number of intra-company transfer visa applications received by the UK Borders Agency; [62047]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on domestic immigration policy of *(a)* free trade agreements between the EU and non-EU countries and *(b)* the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India. [62049]

Damian Green: The Government undertook a review of their labour migration routes last year in the context of their proposals to subject these routes to limits on numbers. The review took full account of the UK's existing Mode 4 commitments in those multilateral and bilateral trade agreements to which it is party.

The EU-India Free Trade Agreement remains under negotiation but it is the Government's expectation that its terms should be consistent with domestic immigration policy objectives.

Further Education: Inspections

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has received a response from HM Inspector of Education in Scotland regarding the inspection of private providers of higher and further education. [61668]

Damian Green: We remain in discussion with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education on their potential role in the establishment of an inspection system for private providers of further education in Scotland and hope to announce further information on this shortly.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the performance of the Border Police Command in reducing the number of people illegally trafficked. [62236]

Damian Green *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* As set out in 'The National Crime Agency (NCA): a plan for the creation of a national crime-fighting capability' when established in 2013, the new Border Policing Command will help to tackle illegal immigration by joining together all of the resources and activities of the enforcement agencies operating at the border. It is intended that this improved capability, linking to other capabilities within the NCA, will result in increases in arrests, convictions and disruption at all levels.

The NCA plan can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/nca-creation-plan

Illegal Immigrants: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found in the London Borough of Havering in each of the last five years; and how many such immigrants have been deported. [62109]

Damian Green: The data requested are not available as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports. Information on illegal immigrants encountered and

removals is recorded on two separate databases. To obtain the requested information would require data matching between these two systems which would exceed the cost threshold.

We are however able to identify those cases encountered (i.e. served papers) with a last known address in the borough who were subsequently removed. This does not mean they were necessarily encountered in the borough of Havering.

This information is as follows:

	Served IS151A	*Subsequently removed*
2006	90	36
2007	129	45
2008	180	52
2009	203	27
2010	148	42
2011	57	13
Grand total	807	215

Note:
The figures in the table have been extracted from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. They have not been provided under National Statistics protocols.

Illegal Immigrants: Middle East

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of former *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Egyptian and *(c)* Tunisian officials and military personnel visiting the UK using false names or fake identity papers the UK Border Agency has detected in 2010 and 2011. [62395]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not routinely record this information. Any information that could be obtained could be done so only by detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions *(a)* Ministers and officials in her Department and *(b)* the UK Borders Agency have had with representatives of trade unions on (i) administration, (ii) operation and (iii) reform of the immigration system. [62048]

Damian Green: The reforms to the system have been the subject of public consultations, and officials have considered representations from trade union officials as part of that process.

Immigration: Detainees

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those in immigration detention have *(a)* an appointed legal representative, *(b)* a legal representative they selected and *(c)* no legal representative. [61441]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The information requested is not held centrally and would require examination of each individual file to answer the question. Each detainee with a legal representative would also have to be asked if he or she chose their representative themselves. This would be at disproportionate cost.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in immigration detention *(a)* have been diagnosed with serious mental health conditions, *(b)* are torture survivors, *(c)* are pregnant, *(d)* are children and *(e)* are elderly. [61442]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The UK Border Agency does not hold information centrally about those who have a serious mental health condition or who are torture survivors. Specifically in relation to mental health conditions, this information is held on an individual's medical file which is confidential.

Medical practitioners who work in immigration removal centres are required to report to the UK Border Agency where they have concerns a person's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention, including where a person may have been the victim of torture.

Where the UK Border Agency accepts that a person's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention, they are normally released.

However, there are a number of circumstances when detention may nonetheless be appropriate. These are for reasons of public protection, where a person has been convicted of a crime, those who have persistently failed to abide by the terms of their release conditions, and in order to effect removal.

If a pregnant woman chooses to inform the UK Border Agency of her condition, the detail would be held on her medical file which is confidential between patient and doctor. The agency was holding no children and 12 people over 65 years of age on 18 June 2011. These data are taken from management information, are subject to change and do not form part of national statistics.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people in immigration detention who are unlikely to be deported to their country of origin in the next 12 months. [61443]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* It is the expectation of UK Border Agency that detained individuals will be removed from the UK when their immigration case has been completed. Immigration detention powers are mainly used to secure removal and intention and ability to remove are intrinsically linked to the decision to detain.

There will inevitably be a small number of detainees who for a variety of reasons, such as having won an appeal against a decision to remove them, are granted some form of leave to remain.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in immigration detention have been detained at more than *(a)* one centre, *(b)* three centres and *(c)* five centres on the immigration estate. [61444]

Damian Green *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The information requested is not held centrally and would require an examination of each individual record in order to provide the answer, which would be at disproportionate cost.

The UK Border Agency aims to keep the number of transfers between its places of detention to a minimum, but inevitably detainees are sometimes moved for a variety of different reasons, including because their behaviour requires them to be held in a more secure environment, because they are required for an interview at a particular centre, or because they are being moved close to an airport for their removal from the UK.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the basis in law is for the requirement that an EEA national in exercise of their treaty rights of residence and a non-EEA partner who are both applying for residence documents provide proof of comprehensive medical insurance covering both of them as a condition for the issue of a residence document in respect of the non-EEA partner. [62495]

Damian Green: The legislation governing the free movement of Union citizens and their family members is laid down in Directive 2004/38/EC (the Free Movement Directive). This has been transposed into the UK's domestic law as the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations (the Regulations).

Regulation 4 of the Regulations stipulates that in order to reside in the UK as a student or self-sufficient person an EEA national must have comprehensive sickness insurance. For family members applying for a residence card on the basis that the relevant EEA national is exercising Treaty rights as a self-sufficient person, they must also submit evidence of comprehensive sickness insurance that covers all family members. This is in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Regulations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the hon. Member for Walsall North will receive a reply to his letter of 31 May 2011 to the UK Border Agency, reference N1136111. [62441]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The UK Border Agency confirms that a response was issued to the hon. Member on 24 June 2011.

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national offenders released from custody after serving sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences and *(c)* violence against the person offences who have been returned to their country of origin have subsequently (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully applied to re-enter the UK. [61747]

Damian Green: In order to answer these questions the UK Border Agency would need to cross reference individual records with the National Offender Management Service. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

However, I can advise that the UK Border Agency makes every effort to ensure that a foreign national prisoner's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with his or her release from prison on completion of sentence. Where sentence length allows, consideration of an individual's case will be commenced 18 months prior to the earliest point of release.

All foreign nationals subject to removal and serving a determinate sentence will be considered by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) under the Early Removal Scheme (ERS), which allows for early removal up to a maximum of 270 days prior to the halfway point of the sentence, subject to the serving of a requisite period. In 2010, the UK Border Agency removed 5,235 foreign national prisoners. Approximately a third of these removals occurred within the ERS period.

I can also advise that all foreign national prisoners when removed from the UK are entered on our watch list, so checks can be made to prevent those who are barred and those who have no right from re-entering the UK. Requests to revoke a Deportation Order from outside the UK can be made at any time, but applications are likely to be refused unless at least 10 years have passed, unless the refusal to revoke would breach our obligations under the Human Rights Act or the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees or other exceptional circumstances exist. The revocation must be successful to facilitate lawful return to the UK. Even where a Deportation Order has been revoked, visa nationals still require a visa to return to the UK and non-visa nationals must satisfy the requirements of the immigration rules.

Police: Demonstrations

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has assessed the costs to police authorities of policing of protests and marches. [62174]

Nick Herbert: The Government have made no recent assessment of the cost to police authorities of policing protests and marches. For any protests or marches which require a significant police presence, the police force is able to apply for a special grant to assist them with the costs of the operation, subject to the operation meeting certain criteria.

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has considered the merits of extending the provisions of section 25 of the Police Act 1996 to allow charging for the policing of marches and protests. [62177]

Nick Herbert: The Home Secretary has regular discussions with Police colleagues on the issue of deploying their resources, during which the Home Secretary receives information about the effect of policing protests and marches on police resources. For any protests or marches which require a significant police presence, the police force is able to apply for a special grant to assist them with the costs of the operation, subject to the operation meeting certain criteria.

Police: Finance

Mr Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police staff receive funding *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part from parish councils. [61891]

Nick Herbert: We do not collect information centrally on what funding for police staff comes from parish councils.

Phone Hacking

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the Metropolitan Police investigation into telephone hacking by the press and their associates to be completed. [61934]

Nick Herbert: The conduct of the investigation, its scope, and the time taken to complete it are operational matters for the Metropolitan Police.

TREASURY

Bank Notes: Forgery

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many counterfeit Bank of England banknotes were removed from circulation in each year since 2005. [62660]

Justine Greening: The Bank of England publishes information about the withdrawal of counterfeit Bank of England notes on its website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

Child Care Tax Credit

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has estimated the number of parents who *(a)* have chosen and *(b)* will choose to (i) leave a job and (ii) reduce their working hours as a result of the reduction in the proportion of child care costs parents can claim through the working tax credit. [62788]

Mr Gauke: The assumptions made in the costing of changes to child tax credit and working tax credit from 2011-12 are set out in "Spending Review 2010 Policy Costings", available here:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_policycostings.pdf

Ed Balls: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on the effect of the reduction in the proportion of child care costs that parents can claim through working tax credit. [62789]

Justine Greening: The Treasury receives regular representations from non-governmental organisations on a wide range of policy issues and spending decisions. This includes the decision taken at last year's spending review to reverse the unaffordable April 2006 increase in the proportion of child care costs payable under the child care element of the working tax credit from 70% to 80%.

Companies: Disclosure of Information

Jane Ellison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his international counterparts on increasing corporate transparency. [62186]

Mr Gauke: The Government are committed to improving corporate transparency.

As the Chancellor made clear following the G20 Finance Minister's meeting in February 2011, the Government believe that development of new rules to require oil, gas and mining companies to report the payments they make to governments should take place at international level.

HM Treasury officials and those in other interested Government Departments are in regular contact with their European and international counterparts on this issue.

Corporation Tax: Northern Ireland

Mr Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss corporation tax since May 2010. [62211]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers have had at least six meetings with the Northern Ireland Executive since May 2010 at which corporation tax was discussed.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62067]

Justine Greening: All special advisers working for Treasury Ministers are paid employees. The total amount of reimbursable expenses for the 12 month period covering 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £1,720.49. The expenses were mainly incurred on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60180]

Justine Greening: On 3 June 2011, the Treasury published a Small and Medium sized Enterprise (SME) action plan for 2011-12. The full action plan, including details of the desired outcomes and success factors, is available on the Treasury's website at the following address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_sme_action_plan_201112.htm

This plan is also available on the Cabinet Office's website along with other Departments' action plans at the following address:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/small-and-medium-enterprise-sme-action-plans

The Treasury is committed to implementing this plan. Progress against each action will be monitored both by the Treasury itself and the Cabinet Office.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Lammy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the Financial Statement of 23 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 959, when he expects to announce the location of the 10 remaining enterprise zones; [57171]

(2) on what date the location of the final 10 enterprise zones will be announced. [57383]

Justine Greening: The Government intend to announce a second wave of enterprise zones following a competitive process, led by local enterprise partnerships. We expect to make announcements this summer.

Enterprise Zones: Finance

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Barnett consequential funding has been allocated to each devolved Administration as a result of the spending measures announced in the 2011 Budget in respect of enterprise zones. [59643]

Danny Alexander: The Barnett consequentials arising from the enterprise zones measure are shown in the following table:

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*£ million* *2014-15*
Scotland	0	1.329	3.421	5.638
Wales	0	0.767	1.975	3.255
Northern Ireland	0	0.446	1.147	1.891

Excise Duties

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will review the operation of the drawback duty regime; [61912]

(2) with which brewers officials of his Department have held meetings to discuss the introduction of a scheme of duty stamps on beer; [62033]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of the introduction of a scheme of duty stamps on beer. [62034]

Justine Greening: At Budget 2011 the Government announced that they would explore potential legislative measures to tackle alcohol fraud. This will include reviewing the legislation that underpins the operation of the excise duty drawback regime.

Treasury and HMRC officials hold regular meetings with the industry to discuss measures to tackle alcohol excise fraud.

No formal assessment has been made of the potential effects of introducing a fiscal mark on beer at this point.

Excise Duties: Biofuels

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on the continuation of a 20 pence duty differential in the tax treatment of biodiesel in each of the next three financial years; [61597]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of the 20 pence duty differential for biodiesel to the UK's compliance with renewable energy targets. [61598]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce) on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W.

The differential has helped toward meeting the UK's targets alongside the inclusion of biofuel in standard road diesel. From March 2010 support for biofuels has been provided by the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO). The two year extension of the differential for used cooking oil biodiesel began March 2010.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has assessed the merits of extending the 20 pence fuel duty differential for biodiesel made from used cooking oil beyond April 2012; [62527]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the sustainable biodiesel industry of abolishing the 20 pence fuel duty differential for biodiesel made from used cooking oil; and what recent representations he has received on this matter; [62528]

(3) if he will review the fuel duty derogation for those who refine less than 2,500 litres of biodiesel per year in light of recommendations by the Health and Safety Executive on amateur biodiesel production. [62535]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce). The Chancellor considers a range of factors in determining tax policy including the interaction with other support measures and the public finances.

The amendment of the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO) is expected to be made in the second half of 2011. This will provide an overlapping period before the two-year extension of the used cooking oil duty differential comes to an end.

The small producers' biofuel duty exemption continues to offer effective tax relief to low volume producers. The chemicals and processes involved in small scale biofuel production are hazardous. The Health and Safety Executive advises against home manufacture of biodiesel using domestic or other unsuitable facilities.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the downstream oil industry on proposals to introduce a fuel price stabiliser mechanism since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [61744]

Justine Greening: The Government are informally consulting with the industry before setting the level and mechanism for the trigger price for the fair fuel stabiliser.

Treasury Ministers and officials hold regular meetings with the oil industry.

Fuels: Prices

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had on fuel price stabilisation with his counterparts in those EU member states which have introduced a fuel price stabilising mechanism; and if he will make a statement; [62657]

(2) what his policy is on a differential in duty between petrol and diesel; and if he will make a statement. [62658]

Justine Greening: Budget 2011 abolished the previous Government's fuel duty escalator and replaced it with a fair fuel stabiliser. The Chancellor routinely discusses a range of issues with European counterparts.

The duty rate on petrol and diesel is set at the same level. A neutral excise duty treatment supports market transparency.

HM Revenue and Customs: Services

Jason McCartney: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will take steps to ensure that queries to HM Revenue and Customs from taxpayers are dealt with more efficiently and helpfully. [60142]

Mr Gauke: HMRC are committed to provide an efficient and helpful service to their customers. The HMRC Charter, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charter/index.htm

sets out what customers can expect from HMRC and what, in turn, HMRC expects from customers.

Improving levels of service is a departmental priority and is underpinning all of HMRC's current Business Planning.

National Insurance Contributions

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to extending the national insurance contributions holiday to all businesses with less than four employees. [62209]

Mr Gauke: The Government have considered the case for extending the regional national insurance contributions holiday to all existing micro businesses.

The Government believe the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many reviews of national non-domestic rates were completed in each region in each month of the last three years for which figures are available; [61894]

(2) how many appeals against national non-domestic rates valuations in relation to the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2010 rating exercise were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available; [61897]

(3) how many appeals have been received by the Valuation Office Agency against national non-domestic rates valuations in relation to the 2005 ratings in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many reviews in each category had been completed; [61989]

(4) how many appeals have been received by the Valuation Office Agency against national non-domestic rates valuations in relation to the 2010 ratings in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many reviews in each category had been completed. [61990]

Mr Gauke: The number of proposals cleared by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in each region in each month of each of the last three complete financial years has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The number of proposals against the 2005 Local Rating List, outstanding at the end of the 2010-11 financial year, can be found in Table 7.4 on the VOA website at the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%207.4.xls

The number of proposals against the 2010 Local Rating List outstanding, at the end of the 2010-11 financial year, can be found in Table 3.4 on the VOA website at the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%203.4.xls

The number of proposals against the 2005 Local Rating List by administrative area, including regional sub-totals, received in the 2010-11 financial year can be found in Table 7.2 on the VOA website at the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%207.2.xls

The number of proposals cleared over the same period can be found in Table 7.3 on the VOA website in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%207.3.xls

The number of proposals against the 2010 Local Rating List by administrative area, including regional sub-totals, received in the 2010-11 financial year can be found in Table 3.2 on the VOA website at the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%203.2.xls

The number of proposals cleared over the same period can be found in Table 3.3 on the VOA website in the following location:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/May-2011-local-rating/Challenges/Table%203.3.xls

Similar statistics broken down by parliamentary constituency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Personal Pensions

Dr Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints his Department has received on hidden charges in private pension schemes since his appointment; [62785]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on *(a)* hidden charges in and *(b)* mis-selling of private pension funds. [62786]

Mr Hoban: The regulation of private pension products, providers and schemes is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the Pensions Regulator. However, the Treasury does engage regularly with these bodies on a variety of pensions issues, including on initiatives such as the FSA's Retail Distribution Review (RDR), which is currently examining the transparency and fairness of fees and charges across the financial advice landscape.

The Treasury receives many letters from Members of Parliament and the public on a wide range of issues. Treasury Ministers and officials also have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery.

As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions or correspondence received.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what private finance initiative projects have been signed by the Government since 7 May 2010. [62736]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury publishes two spreadsheets containing information on signed and in procurement PFI projects on its website. These spreadsheets were updated on 16 March 2011 using data submitted by Government Departments to HM Treasury. This information can be accessed from the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Between 7 May 2010 and 16 March 2011, the "Signed projects" spreadsheet shows 22 projects already in procurement reached financial close. Of these 21 were entered into by local authorities and one was a central Government project. Since the last data collection reported at 16 March we understand that a further seven number of projects have reached financial close. Of these seven were entered into by local authorities. These data will be reviewed and updated, at the next formal data collection point in the autumn.

No new PFI projects have been approved by central Government to enter procurement since 7 May 2010.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 328W, on tax collection, if he will place in the Library a copy of each generic letter used by HM Revenue and Customs to inform individuals and businesses of outstanding tax liabilities in the last two years; and who authorised the use of each such generic letter. [57628]

Mr Gauke: HMRC no longer uses standard letters for debt. After initial notification of a debt customised letters are used.

HMRC send a wide variety of letters to customers in respect of outstanding tax liabilities. Many of these are sent automatically by our various debt management systems while some are more specifically designed for issue to individual customers.

Letters are authorised for issue by a range of staff up to and including senior civil servants.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60199]

Justine Greening: In 2009-10, HM Treasury third party spend for goods and services procured from a wide range of suppliers was £117.5 million, 32% of which were with organisations defined as small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

The Treasury does not hold information based on the geographical location of suppliers. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Sir Alan Greenspan

Mr MacShane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the plaque referring to Sir Alan Greenspan is on view to visitors to his Department's main building. [62748]

Justine Greening: Yes it is.

Tax Allowances: Health Insurance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce tax relief on personal private medical insurance premiums. [61988]

Mr Gauke: The Government have no plans to introduce tax relief for personal private medical insurance.

Taxation: Fraud

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the funding allocated to tackling fraud and error by his Department will be allocated to reducing *(a)* customer error, *(b)* fraud and *(c)* administrative error up to 2014. [61299]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible to provide an answer to the question in the format requested as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not allocate on this basis. Overall funding for HMRC's compliance activity cannot be broken down in this way as its activity—from policy making, through support and education, to audits and investigations—covers all aspects of compliance behaviour from error through to evasion as well as countering criminal attacks.

Universal Credit

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to minimise *(a)* customer and *(b)* administrative error in the administration of universal credit. [61295]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Universal credit is being designed to be simple to understand and administer. Customers will be asked to provide the minimum information necessary to administer their claim, with information already held being reused where possible. Administrative error will be minimised by processing the majority of claims and changes automatically, based on the application of business rules to claimant information. Most claims and changes will be processed in real time, meaning any discrepancies will be identified and addressed much more quickly.

VAT: Registration

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of VAT registrations in England were in the 50 most deprived local authority areas in England *(a)* in each year since 2005 and *(b)* in 2011 to date; [61909]

(2) what proportion of the 50 most deprived local authority areas were in the lowest quarter of data distribution of VAT registration rates in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [61933]

Mr Gauke: The proportion of new, and total, registrations in the 50 most deprived English local authority areas are shown in the following table for each financial year (information on a calendar year basis is not available):

Proportion of VAT registrations in the 50 most deprived areas in England

Financial year	*New VAT registrations*	*Percentage Total registrations*
2005-06	20	16
2006-07	16	15
2007-08	19	15
2008-09	21	16
2009-10	19	17
2010-11	20	17

The proportion of the 50 most deprived local authority areas that were also in the lowest quarter of VAT registration rates in England was 24%, in the latest period for which figures are available, 2008.

VAT: Vocational Training

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of exempting pilot training from VAT. [59960]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 16 June 2011]:* Education and vocational training are exempt from VAT when supplied by eligible bodies, such as schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and non-profit making organisations, or when supplied using funding ultimately provided by certain Government funding schemes. All other supplies of education and vocational training are liable to VAT.

The Government have no plans to consider extending this exemption to other types of education and training.

CABINET OFFICE

Breast Cancer: Jarrow

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in the last five years. [62864]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England and Wales in the last five years [62864].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The following table provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 2004 to 2008 in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority district, (c) North East government office region and (d) England and Wales.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer,[1,2] Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority district, North East government office region and England and Wales, 2004-08[3,4]

	Cancer registrations				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Jarrow	62	69	88	74	68
South Tyneside	117	119	161	117	129
North East	1,989	2,005	2,062	1,862	2,077
England and Wales[5]	40,580	41,484	41,654	41,298	41,654

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Around 99% of breast cancer cases are in women.
[3] Based on boundaries as of May 2011.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.
[5] Figures include data provided by the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit.

SMEs: Contracts

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what indicators he plans to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* report on in determining the effectiveness of his policy on ensuring small and medium-sized businesses bid for Government contracts. [61984]

Mr Maude: All Departments have published SME action plans to make sure that contracts are available to and competed for by SMEs. To monitor and report on the extent to which the Government are successful in ensuring small and medium-sized businesses can and do bid for government contracts we are:

Monitoring progress against delivery of the 25% aspiration;

Identifying contracts that have been awarded to SMEs when they are published on Contracts Finder;

Publishing regular updates on the extent to which Departments are putting opportunities and contracts on Contracts Finder;

Working with SME Groups to assess the impact of the changes made to the procurement process in terms of time and cost of bidding.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what methodology his Department has adopted to assess the impact on businesses of *(a)* existing and *(b)* new legislation. [61996]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office uses HM Treasury's Green Book Guidance to evaluate the impact of policy.

As with other Department's any new burdens go through the Reducing Regulation Committee. Cabinet Office has no themes on the 'Red Tape Challenge website'.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to *(a)* improve the provision of information to small and medium-sized businesses on Government procurement opportunities

and *(b)* develop appropriate advice services and training packages for such businesses; and how much funding he has allocated for these purposes. [62054]

Mr Maude: On 11 February 2011 I launched Contracts Finder, a one stop shop to enable suppliers to find procurement opportunities and tender documents and contracts online, free of charge. Contracts Finder includes a facility whereby suppliers can indicate in which sectors and areas they are interested and they will receive email notification of relevant opportunities free of charge.

To help small businesses build skills and capacity and support SMEs to access public procurement opportunities, BIS has designed (with input from across both the public and private sectors) a free on-line public procurement training course 'Winning the Contract' available on the Businesslink website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/winningthecontract

Both Cabinet Office and BIS provide a range of advice, guidance and information for SMEs on the Businesslink site at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/procurement

Stephen Allott, the Crown representative for SMEs, is working with Departments to plan to run a series of product surgeries, the details of which will be announced soon.

Funding for this work comes out of existing operational budgets.

Childbirth: High Peak

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many births have taken place at the Corbar Birthing Unit in High Peak in each of the last five years. [62418]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, asking how many births have taken place at the Corbar Birthing Unit in High Peak in each of the last five years. [62418]

Figures for live births by establishment have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the actual establishment. The latest figures available are for 2009.

Live births occurring at the Corbar Birth Centre, Buxton, 2005 to 2009

	Number of live births
2005	139
2006	111
2007	173
2008	138
2009	159

Departmental Contracts

Ian Lavery: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his policy is on the offshoring of contracts held by private sector companies with Government Departments. [60595]

Mr Maude: The Government's procurement policy is to seek value for money for the public purse through fair competition in open markets, in line with our membership of the EU and other international agreements. While the vast bulk of contracts go to UK-based companies, we cannot preclude suppliers proffering off-shored services where these meet the required criteria and provide the best value for money.

Contracts: Construction

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department has produced for local authorities on the use of TrustMark when outsourcing public sector construction contracts; and if he will make a statement. [62592]

Mr Maude: We have issued no guidance on using TrustMark, which is designed primarily for the benefit of individual consumers.

Dalai Lama

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reason the UK representative of the Dalai Lama was not invited to a reception hosted by the Minister without Portfolio on 13 June 2011. [62115]

Mr Maude: The noble Lady Baroness Warsi hosted a celebratory reception for over 120 representatives of different faiths, organisations and Buddhist traditions in recognition of the contribution that the Buddhist community makes to the United Kingdom. The Dalai Lama's representative was not included in the list of diplomatic invitees because he does not have diplomatic status.

Special Advisers: Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62080]

Mr Maude: No expenses have been claimed by special advisers working in the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months.

JUSTICE

Prisoner Activities

20. **Karl McCartney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that time spent in prison is spent on meaningful activity. [62265]

Mr Blunt: We intend to transform prisons into places where most prisoners undertake work and training.

Policy work is proceeding urgently to identify how to engage business partners to help deliver work in prisons in a away that generates an economic return which can be put towards the victims of crime. Last week I chaired the first meeting of the Business Advisory Group who will help guide our policy into becoming the reality of prison life for most prisoners.

Office of Chief Coroner

21. **Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with INQUEST and the Royal British Legion on the retention of the Office of Chief Coroner. [62266]

Mr Djanogly: I have discussed our proposals with a number of interested parties, including peers, MPs and civil society groups such as INQUEST and the Royal British Legion. We have, where possible, sought to take into account these discussions in developing the proposals, announced on 14 June, to transfer a number of functions of the Chief Coroner while retaining the office on the statute book. We believe this represents the fastest and most efficient way to deliver reform of the coronial system, although we accept that some stakeholders would prefer to proceed with full implementation of the Office of Chief Coroner.

Prisoners: Working Hours

22. **Steve McCabe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per week prisoners in England and Wales worked on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [62267]

Mr Blunt: The latest available figures relate to 2009-10 and show that prisoners in England and Wales spent 11.8 hours per week on average in work.

Foreign National Offenders

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on progress in the deportation of foreign national offenders. [62264]

Nick Herbert: Home Office and Justice Ministers have frequently discussed the issue of foreign national prisoners, and our officials are in regular contact. The removal of foreign national prisoners and offenders awaiting deportation is a mutual priority.

Civil Proceedings: Fees and Charges

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government's response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, if he will publish the statistical evidence produced by the economist assessor Professor Fenn. [62424]

Mr Djanogly: The Government do not hold the statistical evidence on which Professor Fenn's analysis was based. Lord Justice Jackson's response to the Government's consultation paper "Proposals for Reform of Civil Litigation Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations" included an analysis by Professor Fenn of the cumulative effect on personal injury claims of the key proposals. Lord Justice Jackson's response is published on the Judiciary of England and Wales website:

www.judiciary.gov.uk

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government's response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, if he will collect the data required for a full quantitative assessment of the impacts of his proposals. [62425]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have published an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the reforms they intend to take forward as announced in their response 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations—The Government Response'. The impact assessment takes account of such data as the Government received as a result of their request for data during the consultation process.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the Government's response to Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations for reforming civil litigation funding and costs in England and Wales, Cm 8041, how many responses to the consultation his Department received. [62426]

Mr Djanogly: As set out at paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Government Response, 'Reforming Civil Litigation Funding and Costs in England and Wales—Implementation of Lord Justice Jackson's Recommendations', the Government received 625 formal responses. The response is available in the House Libraries and is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/jackson-review.htm

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62071]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have two paid special advisers, who have claimed total expenses of £576.24 in the period 13 May 2010 to 31 March 2011. These expenses related to travel and telephone call charges. There are no unpaid special advisers in my Department. Lord McNally, Minister of State for Justice and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, has one special adviser, paid for by the Leader of the Lords Office. She advises him in his capacity as Deputy Leader and has claimed no expenses from my Department.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the number of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61714]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: At this stage there are no plans to publish a more detailed breakdown of departmental work force statistics or to increase the current list of pre-announced publications.

Under Cabinet Office guidelines the Office for National Statistics collects employment figures from all Departments and their agencies quarterly and while decision making internally makes use of such figures, to ensure the best use of departmental resources, the required data cleansing exercises would not currently allow statistics to be presented that matched publication guidelines. If in the future there is an opportunity to increase the frequency and detail of this published data we would revisit this publication issue.

In addition, the Ministry supports the coalition Government's transparency agenda and discloses details of senior staff salaries and work force statistics. The first round of this disclosure was published in October 2010 and reflected the position within the Ministry at 30 June 2010. The second round of disclosure was published on the 15 June 2011 and shows the position within the Ministry at 31 March 2011. This can be found at the following web address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/transparency-data/senior-civil-service-salaries-and-organograms.htm

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what newspaper and magazine titles prisons purchase for use by prisoners; and whether his Department prohibits the purchase of any newspaper or magazine title for use by prisoners. [62513]

Mr Blunt: Information relating to the titles of newspapers and magazines purchased for prisoners is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. In addition to stock held in the library, prisoners are able to purchase newspapers and periodicals for their own use, using their own funds.

Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 12/2011 (Prisoners' Property) notes that governors, when permitting prisoners to have access to newspapers, books and magazines etc., they need to exclude those that the governor considers:

offensive or inappropriate

presents a threat to good order or discipline

(the possession of which) is likely to have an adverse affect on the prisoner's physical or mental condition

Censorship of material will not usually be exercised, save where an item is clearly offensive and/or in breach of legal requirements (such as racist articles, or items with age certificates, for example). However, the establishment may restrict an individual's access to some material, which will be on a case-by-case basis.

The governor must also impose restrictions on the display of material which he or she considers is likely to cause offence by reason of its indecent or violent racist content, or which is deemed to be inconsistent with our commitments to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. In essence, governors are responsible for deciding what is suitable for the prisoners in his/her establishment and devising their own schemes.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61729]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has not made any estimates of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 or *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. To date, the cost to the public purse for redundancies in MOJ non-departmental public bodies is nil.

Injunctions

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of super injunctions. [61919]

Mr Djanogly: The Prime Minister recently wrote to the Chairs of the Justice Select Committee and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee recommending that a Joint Committee of both Houses be established to consider current arrangements around privacy and the use of injunctions and super injunctions and whether improvements could be made. The terms of reference for the new Committee have now been agreed. The Committee has been asked to report by 29 February 2012 and we look forward to receiving its views on these important issues.

Legal Aid

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of legal aid for the settlement of domestic disputes. [62254]

Mr Blunt: We published the Government's response to our consultation on legal aid on 21 June. Legal aid will remain available for mediation in private family law cases, such as disputes about children or finance following the breakdown of a relationship. We believe that it is right to encourage families, where appropriate, to resolve their disputes without recourse to the courts. Legal aid will also remain available for cases where domestic violence or child abuse is present, where there is evidence of the need for protection. We will continue to fund applications for civil remedies for domestic violence and for injunctions to restrain abusive behaviour, as at present.

Legal Aid: Nationality

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 179W, on legal aid: Iraq, for what reasons the Legal Services Commission does not record the nationality of claimants; and if he will instruct them to do so. [62401]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission does not identify or record the nationality of claimants as this is not one of the criteria used to decide whether a person should receive legal aid. The fact that an applicant may live abroad is not a factor in the decision-making process under the legal aid scheme. The rules for scope and qualification are in legislation or other documents laid before Parliament.

Magistrates Courts

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that the necessary exchange of information between magistrates courts, a probation trust and a private company is carried out; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that the exchange will comply with data protection legislation following the completion of the tendering process for unpaid work. [62772]

Mr Blunt: The new contracts for Community Payback will require all providers to ensure that there is an effective, safe and legal exchange of data.

The contracts between each Trust and the Secretary of State for Justice, for the delivery of probation services, include a requirement to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. This would be mirrored in any contract with a private sector provider.

Marriage

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department expects to begin its consultation on reform of marriage law. [62404]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is responsible for fundamental marriage law in England and Wales. Marriage law is a devolved issue in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

On 31 March 2011, the Government Equalities Office launched a public consultation on implementing section 202 of the Equalities Act 2010 to enable civil partnerships to be registered on religious premises. This consultation closed on 23 June. The consultation document sets out that, following a listening exercise conducted last year, the Government identified a desire from many to move towards equal civil marriage and partnerships. We have committed to work with all those who have an interest in this area on how legislation can develop. The Government Equalities Office will begin this work in July 2011.

Missing Persons

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to facilitate the handling of the financial affairs of missing persons by their relatives; and if he will make a statement. [62100]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have no plans to change the law relating to the property and affairs of missing persons. However, we will carefully consider the report of the Inquiry by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults into support for families of missing people when it is published.

In relation to assisting those left behind by missing persons more generally, the Government are considering what further action is needed in relation to the recommendations of the Missing Persons Taskforce for improving the multi-agency response to missing incidents. Of the taskforce's 22 recommendations, eight have been implemented and action is under way on a further seven. For example, the Ministry of Justice is liaising with the Missing Persons' Bureau on improving awareness of section 15 of the Coroners Act 1988, which provides that the Secretary of State for Justice can direct a coroner to open an inquest in to the death of a person who is missing and presumed dead.

Parole: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average waiting time was from application to a parole hearing in each of the last 10 years. [61645]

Mr Blunt: The parole process for indeterminate sentence prisoners is scheduled to last six months. However, in 2010-11 the average time from the point that the Secretary of State refers an indeterminate sentence prisoner's case to the Parole Board for a review until when the case was heard was 8.5 months. The average waiting time for 2011-12 to date is 7.5 months. We are committed to working with the Parole Board to eliminate delays in the parole process and ensure that all parole reviews are held on time.

We are unable to provide average waiting times for previous years due to disproportionate costs.

Foreign Nationals: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 919-22W, on foreign nationals: prisoners, how many foreign national prisoners *(a)* from each country of origin and *(b)* in each sentence length band were released from prison in each of the last 10 years. [61748]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows numbers of foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country of origin. Table 2 shows numbers of foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by sentence length band 2001 to 2010. 2009 data are not available to this level of detail.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country, England and Wales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Afghanistan	29	32	41	45	66	49	27	45	73
Albania	51	60	67	73	81	61	77	77	83
Algeria	98	105	111	132	156	132	117	147	125
Andorra	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Angola	39	45	55	50	58	44	49	52	46
Anguilla	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	2	2
Argentina	0	2	4	5	5	3	1	1	4
Armenia	2	0	3	5	1	2	1	1	2
Aruba	1	4	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Australia	30	34	33	31	26	15	20	23	20
Austria	3	7	5	3	8	9	7	3	5
Azerbaijan	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1
Bahamas	1	0	1	2	2	3	3	1	2
Bahrain	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	1

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country, England and Wales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Bangladesh	117	137	161	169	137	156	112	128	121
Barbados	7	24	11	13	24	12	10	10	13
Belgium	21	17	30	24	25	18	28	13	15
Belize	0	2	0	5	1	2	0	1	2
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	5	1
Bermuda	2	1	2	1	3	2	4	0	3
Bolivia	2	6	1	5	4	4	8	3	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	7	7	9	16	17	11	16	16
Botswana	1	3	0	0	0	6	2	3	3
Brazil	17	13	27	26	29	42	115	88	82
British Indian Ocean Territory	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bulgaria	7	8	10	5	15	16	76	111	131
Burkina Faso	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Burundi	7	6	7	9	6	7	11	5	2
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Cameroon	10	9	15	14	23	25	28	25	21
Canada	30	26	23	26	21	13	11	19	16
Cape Verde	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Cayman Islands	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Central African Republic	10	9	8	14	8	19	13	12	12
Chad	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0
Chile	15	13	13	18	15	16	11	17	10
China	19	39	31	121	255	479	365	391	339
Colombia	53	51	57	63	37	36	42	40	35
Comoros	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo	29	35	73	82	105	83	72	84	80
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	45	42	46	35	33	15	19	13	4
Costa Rica	0	0	1	1	1	4	2	2	2
Croatia	5	6	7	a	6	5	9	3	6
Cuba	2	3	5	7	3	3	2	1	1
Cyprus	29	31	33	24	21	25	28	38	9
Czech Republic	9	13	12	29	34	69	73	103	122
Denmark	9	7	8	6	11	5	10	11	8
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Dominica	3	6	5	2	4	3	3	3	2
Dominican Republic	1	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	9
Ecuador	12	6	19	17	15	15	15	14	4
Egypt	13	6	3	11	29	8	10	9	16
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Equatorial Guinea	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Estonia	3	4	4	6	17	28	20	23	31
Ethiopia	39	31	15	36	51	51	30	51	23
Fiji	3	2	1	1	1	5	1	6	6
Finland	2	2	3	0	4	1	2	3	2
France	100	103	107	125	116	124	148	164	162
French Guiana	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	7	2
French Southern Territories	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
Gabon	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
Gambia	8	15	26	19	26	33	33	28	20
Georgia	2	2	3	5	4	11	14	17	15
Germany	92	86	90	85	85	64	82	95	50
Ghana	67	54	75	89	93	90	102	143	101
Gibraltar	2	1	3	2	3	0	0	2	2
Greece	30	17	18	19	26	17	13	18	9
Greenland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grenada	8	12	11	10	8	12	12	9	10
Guam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Guatemala	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	10
Guinea	1	0	3	5	5	5	7	11	10
Guinea-Bissau	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Guyana	14	20	16	13	12	7	17	18	13

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country, England and Wales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Haiti	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Heard and McDonald Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hong Kong	11	1	9	10	9	8	8	7	0
Hungary	6	9	9	6	11	15	25	28	47
Iceland	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
India	162	165	188	222	207	211	170	246	229
Indonesia	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
Iran	36	49	93	103	149	168	132	156	130
Iraq	40	96	146	202	235	240	194	158	141
Irish Republic	812	802	781	808	780	723	718	739	742
Israel	10	4	11	14	20	20	4	20	28
Italy	134	139	129	139	114	121	113	101	85
Ivory Coast	5	7	7	17	15	19	18	20	28
Jamaica	487	726	1.142	1.238	801	514	419	381	313
Japan	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	2
Johnston Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jordan	2	4	0	2	7	0	3	1	2
Kazakhstan	0	3	0	1	5	3	1	3	1
Kenya	45	48	46	56	51	46	49	58	36
Kiribati	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	4	1
Korea. Republic of	7	2	0	4	0	3	1	4	3
Kuwait	5	5	3	4	12	13	8	10	7
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	1	3	1	4	1	0	1
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1
Latvia	4	6	4	16	50	90	143	181	357
Lebanon	14	8	5	18	13	10	9	13	14
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Liberia	5	4	12	15	21	10	13	18	13
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7	8	12	9	14	12	9	11	17
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	18	20	30	71	154	293	424	615	831
Luxembourg	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Macedonia	2	3	1	5	3	2	6	4	3
Madagascar	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Malawi	6	3	6	4	12	13	13	14	17
Malaysia	5	13	21	30	41	23	32	39	41
Maldives	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mali	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	2
Malta	20	9	15	12	6	7	9	8	2
Mauritania	0	1	2	4	4	3	1	5	3
Mauritius	9	14	11	8	10	9	13	16	14
Mayotte	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mexico	0	0	3	6	13	6	7	12	22
Moldova	3	1	16	20	20	18	20	29	20
Mongolia	1	1	4	4	3	4	1	9	6
Montserrat	4	3	3	7	8	14	5	11	14
Morocco	38	38	41	35	37	30	27	28	40
Mozambique	1	2	0	2	3	4	6	5	3
Myanmar	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	6	2
Namibia	0	0	2	3	7	11	0	3	5
Nepal	2	0	5	2	5	2	0	2	13
Netherlands	73	60	99	89	58	63	66	68	54
Netherlands Antilles	5	6	7	8	7	8	11	5	3
New Zealand	11	8	9	9	6	10	3	10	2
Nicaragua	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0
Niger	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	7
Nigeria	129	185	235	269	357	471	629	657	449
Norway	2	2	3	4	6	0	3	10	8
Oman	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other	10	7	17	8	1	7	5	4	2

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country, England and Wales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Pacific Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pakistan	260	240	264	247	271	248	249	229	225
Panama	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Papua New Guinea	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Peru	4	4	2	4	2	3	3	6	3
Philippines	3	9	3	8	10	10	23	10	19
Poland	57	44	57	83	186	401	700	960	1,023
Portugal	164	176	169	203	220	195	213	268	217
Qatar	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Romania	34	53	80	113	128	116	218	443	912
Russian Federation	25	40	57	88	84	94	104	124	118
Rwanda	2	6	4	8	10	5	10	7	7
Samoa	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
San Marino	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome and Principe	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	7	7	12	9	11	13	6	8	7
Senegal	0	0	1	1	10	4	5	6	6
Serbia and Montenegro	83	90	80	66	53	41	23	48	21
Seychelles	1	3	5	5	3	4	2	1	3
Sierra Leone	32	46	44	47	55	47	39	27	36
Singapore	4	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	8
Slovakia	6	3	7	10	11	33	52	71	98
Slovenia	1	0	2	1	3	3	6	2	5
Solomon Islands	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Somalia	166	176	193	243	274	302	217	268	313
South Africa	104	140	130	137	107	127	150	152	60
South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Spain	51	58	52	54	49	44	39	57	45
Sri Lanka	66	68	70	79	96	101	98	97	93
St Kitts and Nevis	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	2	1
St Lucia	4	13	16	6	8	15	13	14	10
St Pierre and Miquelon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
St Vincent and the Grenadines	2	3	3	3	6	3	4	8	4
Sudan	7	7	14	19	19	33	21	30	26
Suriname	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	5	0
Swaziland	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	1
Sweden	8	6	9	6	13	19	17	19	13
Switzerland	0	3	4	4	5	4	3	3	3
Syrian Arab Republic	1	2	4	3	9	7	4	2	11
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tajikistan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tanzania	11	11	9	10	10	11	9	13	14
Thailand	3	5	7	4	7	[illegible]	4	9	8
Timor-Leste (East Timor)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Togo	1	0	2	1	0	3	4	3	2
Tonga	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	18	16	23	38	59	47	35	43	21
Tunisia	7	9	6	10	9	5	6	10	13
Turkey	122	116	124	137	145	104	70	102	77
Turkmenistan	2	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	2
Uganda	46	52	54	53	61	55	47	42	50
United Arab Emirates	6	2	4	3	5	7	1	3	3
United States	55	46	59	67	55	49	59	63	37
Uruguay	3	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	1
Venezuela	4	6	7	16	19	24	22	5	3
Vietnam	34	37	54	51	93	84	110	222	380
Virgin Islands	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Western Sahara	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Yemen, Republic of	3	4	4	7	9	7	4	4	3
Zambia	8	7	23	12	15	14	12	16	10

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by country, England and Wales

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Zimbabwe	31	79	107	186	201	222	231	246	205
All	4,717	5,248	6,242	7,082	7,384	7,650	8,077	9,517	9,836

Foreign national prisoners discharged from determinate sentences by sentence length, England and Wales

	Less than or equal to six months	Six months to less than 12 months	12 months to less than four years	Four years or more	All
2001	2,593	359	1,164	601	4,717
2002	2,802	429	1,355	662	5,248
2003	3,141	483	1,775	843	6,242
2004	3,777	518	1,642	1,145	7,082
2005	3,919	734	1,871	860	7,384
2006	4,489	865	1,644	652	7,650
2007	4,659	1,055	1,613	750	8,077
2008	5,693	1,187	1,761	876	9,517
2010	5,676	1,097	2,282	781	9,836

Prisoners: Mass Media

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many times *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have authorised prisoners serving a sentence for each type of offence to contact the media in each of the last five years; [61753]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that prisoners contacting the media without authorisation are given sanctions; [61754]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are required to seek permission for contact with the media only if doing so by telephone or face to face interview and in consultation with Ministry of Justice Press Office. They do not require permission to contact the media by written correspondence. Prior to a change in policy in July 2010, all decisions on applications for contact by telephone or face to face interview were made locally by governors and no central records were collated. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since July 2010 only applications for face to face interviews have had to be referred to the Ministry of Justice Press Office for approval on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice. There have been no decisions to allow an interview in this time.

Prisoners who breach the rules relating to contact with the media will be dealt with under internal disciplinary procedures and face additional monitoring of their communications.

Prisons: Discipline

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to enable records of disciplinary action taken against prisoners for breaching prison rules and other behavioural matters while in custody to be *(a)* published in the public domain and *(b)* made available to victims of their crimes. [61752]

Mr Blunt: The overall figures for prison disciplinary proceedings are published annually in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics. There are over 100,000 proven prison disciplinary offences each year. In addition, prisoner behaviour may be dealt with under the incentives and earned privileges scheme and local systems of minor reports.

Details of disciplinary action and behavioural matters are held in individual prisoner records. This information is not collated centrally as there is no operational need for this, and to do so for the purposes of publication would incur substantial additional cost.

Victims who opt into the statutory Victim Contact Scheme operated by Probation Trusts for victims of certain serious violent and sexual offences, where the offender receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, or where certain mental health disposals have been given, do receive information about key stages in the offender's sentence. Such key stages include when offenders are moved to open prison conditions, and when they are released. Personal information about the prisoner, such as their custodial behaviour, is not disclosed. There are no plans to make changes to the type of information provided to victims under the scheme.

Prisons: Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the name is of each course of study available to prisoners; and how many prisoners have *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed each such course in each of the last five years. [62547]

Mr Blunt: This information is not centrally collected and could be gained only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the education programme in prisons cost in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [62613]

Mr Blunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 105W, to the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan).

Prisons: Employment

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he plans to publish on *(a)* value and *(b)* price in respect of the contracting of unpaid work. [62774]

Mr Blunt: We would intend to publish the name of the winning bidder and total contract price.

Prisons: Gyms

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts his Department has to provide gymnasium facilities in prisons. [62549]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold any current contracts relating to the provision of any outsourced gymnasium facilities in HM Prisons.

However the Ministry of Justice holds two national contracts for the supply of gymnasium equipment and associated sports equipment to HM Prisons in England and Wales. The details of the contracts are as follows:

Supply of physical education gymnasium equipment and provision for supporting servicing and maintenance

Contract ref: ST02 10/139/9

Expires 30 September 2011

Suppliers: Servicesport and PSLT t/a Physique Sports Ltd

Supply of sports equipment and sportswear

Contract ref: 0278-Operational Goods

Expires 30 April 2015

Supplier: Newitt and Co Ltd

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defence are currently tendering this requirement collaboratively for the next generation of contracts for gymnasium equipment. The resultant contracts will be available in autumn 2011.

Prisons: Video Games

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many video games consoles were purchased by prisons in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [62550]

Mr Blunt: Prison Service Instruction (PSI) 32/2008, Restricting Prisoner Access to Games Consoles/Games, issued on 23 July 2008, instructed Governors in the adult estate to ensure that all games consoles and console games are purchased at prisoners' own expense. No public funds must be used by establishments to purchase games consoles and equipment. Access to games consoles is restricted to prisoners who are on the enhanced level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme.

Information on games consoles purchased before that date is not available and could be obtained only as disproportionate cost. There is not a central cost category for games consoles and this would require manual examination of the records in every prison.

PSI 32/2008 is available in the Library of the House.

Probation: Harassment

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training probation officers receive on supervising persons convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. [61771]

Mr Blunt: All staff qualifying as probation officers under the Probation Qualifications Framework (2010) or previous training arrangements, have received training to honours degree level and vocational qualification level 5, which specifically includes supervising persons convicted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. The training provides a full working understanding of the Equality Act (2010) in which harassment is specifically included, in addition to the practical skills to work effectively with offenders who present a high risk of harm to others. This includes stalking, racially motivated offenders and those convicted of domestic violence. All qualified probation officers must have demonstrated skills in assessing the risk of harm presented by such offenders and have supervised a number of high risk offenders.

Sentencing

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to taking into account an act of deliberate deception by a suspect during a police interview in his proposals for reduced sentencing in recognition of early guilty pleas by defendants. [61918]

Mr Blunt: We have no plans to alter the arrangements for reducing sentences in recognition of early guilty pleas.

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the implications for his Department's policy of the judgement of the Court of Appeal in R. *v.* Round and R. *v.* Dunn in respect of anomalies in sentencing legislation; and if he will make a statement. [62050]

Mr Blunt: The anomalies highlighted in these cases affected prisoners serving a combination of sentences subject to the release provisions of different Acts; that is, where the Criminal Justice Act 1991 applied to one or more of the sentences while the Criminal Justice Act 2003 governed release from the other sentence(s). The problem with such mixtures of sentences had been that there is no clear provision to combine them together into a single sentence as happens when the sentences all fall under a single Act. This produced an anomaly in eligibility for Home Detention Curfew (HDC), with those serving multiple sentences under just one Act having eligibility dates based on the total combined length of all the sentences whereas those serving 'mixed Act' sentences were eligible only on the last of the sentences handed down by the court.

This issue was addressed by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Round* and *Dunn* but was subsequently taken forward and resolved by the Supreme Court in the case of *Noone*. In its judgment of 30 June 2010, the Supreme Court concluded (contrary to the previous Court of Appeal judgments) that mixed Act sentences were not being correctly applied. The court therefore interpreted the 2003 Act Commencement Order in such a way as to make clear that consecutive mixed Act sentences of under 12 months and 12 months or over should be aggregated as if they were all subject to the 2003 Act release arrangements.

As a result of this judgment, the relevant dates for all prisoners serving mixed Act sentences were required to be recalculated to ensure they were brought in line with the Supreme Court's ruling. The Ministry of Justice therefore issued a Prison Service Instruction (PSI)—number 55/2010—on 13 August 2010 to inform prisons of the action they were required to take. This resulted in the anomalies highlighted by these cases being removed.

Further steps to address this issue and to put the statutory position beyond doubt are being taken through the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, introduced on 21 June 2011. We intend to simplify the existing release and recall provisions and to ensure that all future sentences are subject to the same regime.

Sentencing: Legal Aid

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 465-67 and the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 9-12WS, on sentencing reform: legal aid, what information on the policy proposals contained in the Statement was given to media representatives in advance of *(a)* the oral statement and *(b)* the delivery to the House of the text of the written ministerial statement; how many (i) media outlets and (ii) journalists were contacted by his Department for the purposes of providing information on such proposals; and on what days such contacts were made. [62701]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have been assured and I am satisfied that no information was given by my Department which was not already in the public domain with the exception of the Government's proposals on legal aid for squatters resisting eviction. This was discussed with a journalist from *The Daily Telegraph* as part of a wider conversation about issues which were already outlined in the Green Papers.

Squatting

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposals to reform the law on squatters on vulnerable people who squat. [62502]

Mr Blunt: We are aware of arguments that tougher laws to tackle squatting could have an effect on vulnerable people, but there are options open to those who need shelter which do not involve occupying somebody else's property without permission. Our proposed consultation exercise on tackling squatting will encourage views from charities and other organisations which have regular contact with the homeless and other vulnerable people. We will consider all the responses carefully before reaching a final decision on the shape of any future legislation.

Young Offender Institutions

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes are to be made to the *(a)* physical fabric and *(b)* staffing of HM Young Offender Institution Stoke Heath as a result of the decision to re-role it as a adult category C prison. [61993]

Mr Blunt: Stoke Heath was constructed as a male category C adult prison and is maintained to category C standard. Therefore, there are no plans to carry out any physical changes to the fabric of the buildings. The only planned change on the site is to introduce additional fencing.

A review of staffing will take place to establish appropriate levels to take account of the change to the offender profile.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Animal Experiments

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made in implementing the recommendation of the Weatherall report on the use of non-human primates in research that *(a)* consideration should be given to the creation of UK centres of excellence for non-human primate research and *(b)* a systematic review of the outcome of research using non-human primates over the last decade should be conducted by the major funders of such research. [59946]

Mr Willetts: In its report on the use of non-human primates in research, the expert group chaired by Professor Sir David Weatherall made 16 recommendations.

The fourth recommendation was:

"As part of their ongoing programmes to assess the outcomes of their research, the major funding organisations should undertake a systematic review of the outcome of all their research using non-human primates supported over the last decade".

I am informed that the results of a review jointly commissioned and funded by the Medical Research Council, the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, Wellcome Trust and the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research are due to be published in late July.

These results should provide the evidence base for work on Professor Weatherall's fourteenth recommendation, namely that:

"The major funding bodies, together with the government, other stakeholders, scientists, primatologists, vets, and welfare specialists, should give careful consideration to the creation of UK centres of excellence for non-human primate research".

Apprentices: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships were started in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each year since 2005. [61943]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts for Dartford parliamentary constituency and Kent local authority in academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest years for which full year data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by geography, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Kent local authority	3,060	3,700	4,440	4,310	5,020
Dartford constituency	240	280	330	330	330

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Geography information is based upon the home postcode of the learner.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Banks: Loans

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions he has met the Federation of Small Businesses to discuss the cost of bank finance. [62208]

Mr Prisk: As with all key stakeholders and partners, I meet with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) frequently both bilaterally and through forums such as

the Small Business Economic Forum which I chair and which meets quarterly, bringing together Ministers and small and medium-sized enterprise representative bodies together with other ad hoc participants such as the banks. My discussions with the FSB encompass a broad range of subjects, including the cost of bank finance.

Business: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of small and medium-sized businesses surveyed by his Department and its predecessor cited regulation as an obstacle to growth in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [61887]

Mr Prisk: BIS surveys do not collect information on the proportion of small and medium-sized businesses (SME) citing regulations as an obstacle to growth. However, the BIS Small Business Survey provides information on the percentage of SME employers (with one-249 employees) that cite i) regulation as the biggest single obstacle to business success and ii) cite regulation as a general obstacle to business success. The survey was conducted in 2005, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2010 only and therefore data for these years are shown in table 1 of this answer.

Data for 2011 are available from the February 2011 BIS Business Barometer Survey and is shown in table 2 of this answer.

Table 1

Year of survey	*Percentage of SME employers citing regulations as the biggest single obstacle to business success*	*Percentage of SME employers citing regulations as general obstacle to business success*
2005	12	39
2006/07	14	60
2007/08	12	59
2010	7	47

Source:
BIS Small Business Surveys

Table 2

Month/Year of survey February 2011:	*Percentage*
Percentage of SME employers citing regulations as the biggest single obstacle to business success	8
Percentage of SME employers citing regulations as general obstacle to business success	47

Source:
BIS Business Barometers

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of small and medium-sized businesses surveyed by his Department and its predecessor indicated that they believed their concerns were taken into account by the Government in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [61889]

Mr Prisk: The BIS Small Business Survey asked SME employers whether they felt that the Government takes into account the concerns of small businesses. The following table shows that in 2007/08 (the latest survey which asked this question), 10% of SME employers agreed that Government took into account their concerns "very much" or "quite a lot".

Extent to which businesses felt Government takes into account the concerns of small businesses

	2005	*2006/07*	*Percentage 2007/08*
Not at all	37	34	35
A little	48	50	50
Quite a lot	8	9	9
Very much	1	1	1
Don't know	5	5	5

Source:
BIS Small Business Surveys 2005 - 2007/08, SME employers only

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what indicators he plans to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* report on in determining the effectiveness of his policies on (i) encouraging small business growth, (ii) improving access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and (iii) developing better regulation. [62219]

Mr Prisk: The Department has published a set of performance indicators in its business plan. This is available on the transparency section of the Number10.gov.uk website.

The indicators will be reported in the departmental annual report and through a quarterly data summary. Both of these will be published shortly.

Business Link

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of market penetration achieved by Business Link in each financial year since 2003-04. [61107]

Mr Prisk: The regional development agencies who manage the Business Link regional service in England have reported the following levels of business assisted (i.e. businesses receiving at least two hours of tangible support), for each of the financial years since responsibility for delivering the service was devolved to them. This information has enabled BIS to assess the market penetration quoted as follows:

Financial year	*Number of businesses assisted*	*Number of businesses in England*	*Estimated market penetration[1] (%)*
2004/05	491,349	n/a	n/a
2005/06	554,513	n/a	n/a
2006/07	610,334	n/a	n/a
2007/08	590,079	n/a	n/a
2008/09	733,722	n/a	n/a
2009/10	756,908	3,839,835	19.7
2010/11	584,197	3,883,875	15.0

[1] Market penetration is calculated by dividing the number of businesses assisted by the number of businesses in England at the start of each year.

In addition, the national Business Link website provider has since 2006 has produced estimates of market penetration achieved through the web based on regular telephone surveys of 6,000 businesses by an independent market research agency. These are as follows:

Financial year	*Estimated market penetration[1] (%)*
2005/06	6
2006/07	11

Financial year	Estimated market penetration[1] (%)
2007/08	11
2008/09	12.5
2009/10	14
2010/11	20

[1] Market penetration, was defined by the national Business Link website provider as 'owner-managers' of existing businesses between 2005 and 2010, and in 2011 this definition was extended to include; other individuals within a business and pre-starts or self-employed.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what levels of customer satisfaction were recorded in Business Link operator customer satisfaction surveys in each financial year since 2003-4. [61890]

Mr Prisk: The regional development agencies who manage the Business Link regional service in England have reported customer satisfaction rates (%) since 2003-04 as follows:

	Satisfied (%)
2003/04	86.1
2004/05	89.6
2005/06	90.7
2006/07	90.8
2007/08	89.7
2008/09	88.9
2009/10	89.1

In addition, the national Business Link website provider has since 2006 reported customer satisfaction rates (%) for the web as follows:

	Satisfied (%)
2005/06	74
2006/07	88
2007/08	92
2008/09	91
2009/10	93
2010/11	97

Business: Debts

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of demand for debt finance among small and medium-sized enterprises. [62028]

Mr Prisk: The Department has recently published its Small Business Survey for 2010 which is available on the Department's website.

The survey shows that 26% of small and medium enterprises employers (ie excluding sole traders) had tried to obtain external finance in the previous 12 months. It also shows that medium-sized businesses (40%) were much more likely to seek finance than small (33%) or micro businesses (25%).

Of those that applied for finance, 40% applied for a bank loan and 35% for a bank overdraft. 9% each sought a grant or leasing/hire-purchase, and 6% a mortgage for property purchase or improvement.

Business: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* Regional Venture Capital Fund and *(b)* Investment Readiness Pilots. [62216]

Mr Prisk: The Department has published two evaluations reports on the Regional Venture Capital Funds (RVCF) and Early Growth Funds (EGF), which are available on the Department's website: "RVCF and EGF interim evaluation: qualitative research paper" (2009), and "RVCF and EGF interim evaluation: recipient businesses and stakeholder surveys: summary paper" (2010).

The Department has also published an assessment of the 2004 Investment Readiness Pilots in the report "Evaluation of the investment readiness demonstration projects and fit4finance", also available on the Department's website.

This led to the design of a Solutions for Business product known as the Understanding Finance for Business product, which has recently been evaluated in the "2010 Solutions for Business—Cross-product monitoring survey".

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce variations in levels of access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises between disadvantaged and other areas. [62217]

Mr Prisk: The Government have established a £1.4 billion Regional Growth Fund to help those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private-sector led growth. The Regional Growth Fund has approved, subject to due diligence, a contribution of £30 million to a £60 million wholesale fund for the community development finance sector that make small loans to small and medium-sized enterprises particularly from disadvantaged groups and communities.

The 2011 Budget also announced the Government's intention to continue the Community Investment Tax Relief scheme which encourages investment in businesses in disadvantaged communities.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of small and medium-sized businesses surveyed by his Department and its predecessor indicated that they were satisfied with Government services for businesses in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [61888]

Mr Prisk: The BIS Small Business Survey asks small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) employers that had had contact with Government and its agencies during the previous 12 months about their satisfaction with the way the contact was handled, in relation to several different processes.

Table 1 as follows shows the proportion of SME employers saying they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their Government contact, for the years when the Small Business Survey included this question. These data are not available for 2010 or 2011.

Table 1: Proportion of SME employers 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the way government handled contact relating to various processes

	2005	2006/07	Percentage 2007/08
VAT processes	74	69	71
Other taxes	67	65	65
Claiming grants	57	47	54
Companies House	80	80	82
Patenting	69	63	71
Obtaining business advice	64	69	72
Regulation enforcement	56	60	59
Consultations or surveys	64	64	61
Employee related	69	73	77

Source:
BIS Small Business Surveys 2005-2007/08, SME employers only

However, in the BIS Business Barometer survey for November 2010 SME employers that had received general information and advice about running their business in the past 12 months mainly from the public sector were asked how satisfied they were with the information they found. Data for November 2010 are shown in Table 2 as follows.

Table 2: Satisfaction with information found for SME employers, who received advice mainly from the public sector

	Percentage
Very satisfied	26
Fairly satisfied	37
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	16
Fairly dissatisfied	15
Very dissatisfied	6

Source:
BIS Business Barometer, Nov-10, SME employers

Business: Loans

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 391W, on business: loans, what definition of a stretch lending target he uses. [60654]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Nottingham East (Chris Leslie) on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 344W.

Business: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to *(a)* provide information on and *(b)* increase levels of satisfaction with sources of advice and support for small and medium-sized businesses on compliance issues. [61886]

Mr Prisk: The Government are improving www.businesslink.gov.uk to provide online business information and tools tailored to businesses needs, including better, clearer information on Government regulation. The independent Anderson Review of Guidance addressed the question of how the Government should best provide guidance to small and medium-sized businesses on how to comply with the law and reported in January 2009. The report and government response are posted on this Department's website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/reviewing-regulation/anderson-review-of-guidance-provision

A revised version of the Government's code of practice was published in October 2009 to reflect the recommendations of the review and is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/code-of-practice-on-guidance-on-regulation

The code of practice states what is expected from Departments and Regulators when issuing guidance on how to comply with the law and includes the requirement for a feedback contact to be provided so that guidance can be improved and to assess the level of satisfaction with the guidance.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which employment regulations fall within his proposed moratorium for micro-businesses. [62206]

Mr Davey: The moratorium will exempt micro and start up businesses from new domestic regulation for the next three years. As new employment regulations within the scope of the moratorium are brought forward in this period the exemption will be applied.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effects of employment regulations on micro-businesses; and if he will make a statement. [62207]

Mr Davey: The recent Growth Review considered burdens on business, particularly smaller business, leading to a three-year moratorium on new domestic regulation for micro businesses and start-ups and the launch of the Red Tape Challenge. The Government's Employment Law Review continues to seek to reduce burdens on employers, especially micros and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Companies: Annual Reports

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals for the simplification of the annual reports and financial statements of companies; and if he will make a statement. [61817]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will consult on proposals to simplify the narrative reporting framework in July.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61172]

Mr Davey: The table lists the property occupied by the Department outside Greater London. The Department does not own any property, the buildings are either leased or have memorandum of terms of occupation (MOTO) agreements with another Government Departments.

Property		Length of Lease	Level of utilisation (Sq m)	Annual rent (£ + VAT)
Newtown House, Maid Marion Way, Nottingham NG1 7ES	Leased	19 July 2005 to 18 July 2010	26	27,648.00
Queensway House, West Precinct, Billingham TS23 2NF	Leased	1 September 2007 to 23 June 2013	20.03	40,000.00
Alexandra House, Lawnswood Park, Leeds LS16 6QY	Leased	16 July 1990 to 15 July 2015	47.97	95,617.00
Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M13 BN	MOTO	9 September 2008 to 8 September 2023	10.31	74,819.50
Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff CF14 3UZ	MOTO	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2011	17.98	107,244.88
Exchange House, 60 Exchange Road, Watford WD189 OLL	MOTO	29 September 2009 to 28 September 2012	22.86	94,489.56
Europa Building, 450 Argyle Street, Glasgow G2 8LG	MOTO	1 January 2010 to 22 December 2016	11.43	105,837.04
2 St Paul's Place, 125 Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2FJ	MOTO	1 June 2010 to 31 May 2013	10.08	199,710.00

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60903]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills takes the protection and security of its data very seriously and takes a number of measures to ensure that sensitive information is protected when being displayed on visual display units (VDUs). These include strict rules regarding: the use of IT equipment outside of the office (including when travelling/working overseas); and the use of mobile phones and similar devices both on and off its estate.

In addition, the Department's VDUs are programmed to 'lock' if no activity is detected for a short period and staff are instructed to manually lock their screens when leaving their desks. The need to ensure visual data security is considered as part of any office accommodation moves.

Staff are trained regarding all aspects of data handling and security through a variety of ways including: induction courses; regular briefing and training events; articles on the Department's intranet site and; ad hoc reminders as and when considered necessary.

Domestic Service: Conditions of Employment

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government plans to ratify the Convention on Domestic Work agreed at the 100th session of the International Labour Conference. [61742]

Mr Davey: The Government take the protection of all vulnerable workers as a matter of the utmost importance. The UK provides comprehensive employment and social protections to domestic workers, and as a rule does not differentiate between domestic workers' rights and those of other workers.

While we fully support the principles in the new convention, the Government have no plans to ratify it. This is because the final text would not provide sufficient flexibility to meet the UK's needs in a few areas, including health and safety law where the UK differentiates for good reason between domestic workers and other workers. For example, the Government do not consider it proportionate or practical to extend criminal health and safety law, including inspections, to private households employing domestic workers. This would place a huge regulatory and administrative burden on individuals, and could have detrimental social consequences: for example, if increased burdens were to prevent elderly or disabled individuals from employing nurses or carers in their own homes.

English Language: Leicester

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students were enrolled in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* Leicester local authority area in each year since 2005-06; [61922]

(2) what funding his Department provided for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* Leicester local authority area in each year since 2005-06. [61923]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of Government-funded learners in Leicester South constituency and Leicester local authority participating on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course from 2005/06 to 2009/10, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Table 1: Number of learners participating on ESOL courses in Leicester South constituency and Leicester local authority, 2005/06 to 2009/10

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09[1]	2009/10[1]
Leicester South constituency	2,450	2,200	1,910	1,660	1,920
Leicester local authority	6,370	5,970	5,460	4,880	5,500

[1] Figures for 2008/09 onwards are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data are collected and how funded learners are defined. More information on demand led funding is available at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm

Notes:

1. These data cover participation in Learner Responsive, Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Adult Safeguarded Learning and University for Industry provision. Further Education/Learner Responsive provision includes General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Geography is based on learners home postcode.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on participation on ESOL courses is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 23 June 2011:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Information on historical ESOL funding at the local geography level is not available. However, the Skills Funding Agency publish information on adult (19 years +) allocations made to individual colleges, providers and employers for each academic year available at the following link:

http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/programmes/

EU Trade: India

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the Indian government on the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and India. [62171]

Mr Davey: Ministers and officials regularly discuss the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the Indian Government, the European Commission and EU member states. Most recently, on 20 June 2011, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and discussed the FTA and pressed for action on UK priorities with Anand Sharma, India's Minister of Commerce.

Enterprise and the Economy in Education Review

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the Howard Davies Review of Enterprise and the Economy in Education. [61102]

Mr Prisk: The Review of Enterprise and the Economy in Education was published in 2002. It recommended that every pupil spends five days gaining experience of enterprise, that work experience undertaken by 15 and 16-year-olds provides more enterprise and business experience, and that every school links up with local businesses.

The top-down and directive way in which these recommendations were implemented has not been effective. That is why I have already announced a new strategy for engaging young people in school, further education and university in real enterprise activities. The strategy will support:

expansion of the Tenner Tycoon scheme;

development of resources to enable teachers to create and extend school businesses;

access for schools to local enterprise champions; and

creation of student enterprise societies in every university and the majority of further education colleges.

Convention on Domestic Workers

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal advice he received prior to the abstention of the UK from the vote on the International Labour Organisation Convention on Domestic Workers; and if he will make a statement. [62693]

Mr Davey: As with any negotiations on an international agreement, the Government obtained legal advice in relation to the International Labour Organisation Convention on Domestic Workers.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether any UK legislation contravenes the provisions of the International Labour Organisation Convention on Domestic Workers. [62696]

Mr Davey: The Government take the protection of all vulnerable workers as a matter of the utmost importance. The UK provides comprehensive employment and social protections to domestic workers, and as a rule does not differentiate between domestic workers' rights and those of other workers.

While we fully support the principles in the new convention, the final text would not provide sufficient flexibility to meet the UK's needs in a few areas, including health and safety law where the UK differentiates for good reason between domestic workers and other workers. For example, the Government do not consider it proportionate or practical to extend criminal health and safety law, including inspections, to private households employing domestic workers. This would place a huge regulatory and administrative burden on individuals, and could have detrimental social consequences: for example, if increased burdens were to prevent elderly or disabled individuals from employing nurses or carers in their own homes.

Investment Trusts: New Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many equity investments there were in start-up and early-stage businesses *(a)* in each year since 2005 and *(b)* in 2011 to date. [62026]

Mr Prisk: The British Venture Capital Association (BVCA) publish statistics on the number of Early Stage Venture Capital investments in the UK made by their members in their annual activity report. Collating the figures suggests the following number of investments each year:

	Number
2005	491
2006	500
2007	502
2008	455
2009	285
2010	323

Care should be taken in interpreting the figures due to changes in methodology between different surveys; for instance, 2009 and 2010 figures specifically exclude later stage venture capital which may be included in the earlier figures.

Metals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 629W, on metals: imports, what the results were of his Department's monitoring of issues across Government concerning rare earth metals; and what representations he has received from industry on this matter. [62169]

Mr Prisk: The Government as a whole are actively working to monitor the issues surrounding access to and supply of strategic metals including rare earth metals. This Department and DEFRA are continuing to discuss resource risks with a wide range of UK businesses to help shape Government policy, and UK interventions at EU and international level.

New Businesses: Finance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of small businesses reported to his Department difficulties in obtaining finance for start-up and growth in *(a)* each year since 2005 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [62027]

Mr Prisk: The Department undertakes periodic large scale telephone surveys of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) called the 'Small Business Survey'. The figures on the proportion of small business employers unable to access finance taken from the three most recent surveys are set out in the following table.

No Small Business Surveys were conducted at the height of the credit crunch. However, during 2008 and 2009 the Department undertook smaller but more regular surveys of SMEs called the SME Business Barometer. These resurveyed 500 SME employers from the Small Business Survey to get regular feedback about the issues they face.

The Small Business Survey and BIS Barometer survey results are available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/enterprise-and-business-support/analytical-unit/research-and-evaluation/cross-cutting-research

Small Business Survey	*Of those seeking finance, % unable to obtain any finance from any source*	*% of all SME employers that can not obtain any finance*
2010	21	5
2007/08	8	2
2006/07	9	2

Self-employed: Industrial Health and Safety

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will assess the merits of implementing the recommendation of the Davidson Review that the Health and Safety Executive that the self-employed should be exempted from certain health and safety legislation in low-risk sectors. [62599]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 114W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Brighton, Kemptown (Simon Kirby).

Small Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of small businesses were engaged in research and development in each year since 2005. [61116]

Mr Willetts: The following table sets out the percentage of small businesses that were engaged in research and development (R and D) in each year since 2005. A small business is defined as one with 0-49 employees and the percentages are of the total population of small businesses. Figures are provided by the Office for National Statistics, whose usual practice is not to provide specific numbers. This is because in cases where there are a very small number of respondent firms with a particular answer, it may be possible to identify those firms.

	Proportion of small businesses engaged in R&D (percentage)
2005	0.5
2006	0.6
2007	0.7
2008	0.6
2009	0.7

Notes:

1. Data come from the UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) survey. This is an annual sample survey based on a continually updated register of R and D performers conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
2. R and D and related concepts follow internationally agreed standards defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), published in the 'Frascati' Manual. R and D is defined as "Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications".
3. The BERD survey goes to a sample of the R and D population, consisting of known R and D performers. This population is refreshed each year from filter questions on the biennial Community Innovation Survey and the Annual Business Survey. The percentages provided above have been obtained from the BERD data and the Inter Departmental Business Register data for the relevant size bands and industries.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of small businesses in the *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* services sector were engaged in research and development in each year since 2005. [61117]

Mr Willetts: The following table sets out the percentage of small businesses that were engaged in research and development (R and D) in the manufacturing and services sectors in each year since 2005. A small business is defined as one with 0-49 employees and the percentages are of the total population of small businesses. Figures are provided by the Office for National Statistics, whose usual practice is not to provide specific numbers. This is because in cases where there are a very small number of respondent firms with a particular answer, it may be possible to identify those firms.

Proportion of small businesses engaged in R and D

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Percentage 2009*
Manufacturing	2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.7
Services	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

Notes:

1. Data come from the UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) survey. This is an annual sample survey based on a continually updated register of R and D performers conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
2. R and D and related concepts follow internationally agreed standards defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), published in the 'Frascati' Manual. R and D is defined as "Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications".
3. The BERD survey goes to a sample of the R and D population, consisting of known R and D performers. This population is refreshed each year from filter questions on the biennial Community Innovation Survey and the Annual Business Survey. The percentages provided above have been obtained from the BERD data and the Inter Departmental Business Register data for the relevant size bands and industries.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of businesses with *(a)* fewer than 10 employees, *(b)* between 10 and 99 employees and *(c)* between 100 and 499 employees were engaged in research and development in each year since 2005. [61118]

Mr Willetts: The following table sets out the percentage of businesses that were engaged in research and development (R and D) in each year since 2005, split by number of employees. The percentages are of the total population of businesses of the respective size band. Figures are provided by the Office for National Statistics, whose usual practice is not to provide specific numbers. This is because in cases where there are a very small number of respondent firms with a particular answer, it may be possible to identify those firms.

Proportion of businesses engaged in R and D

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Less than 10 employees	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
10 to 99 employees	2.5	3.6	4.1	3.6	4.1
100 to 499 employees	14.5	17.2	18.3	15.6	17.6

Notes:
1. Data come from the UK Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) survey. This is an annual sample survey based on a continually updated register of R and D performers conducted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
2. R and D and related concepts follow internationally agreed standards defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), published in the 'Frascati' Manual. R and D is defined as "Creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of man, culture and society and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications".
3. The BERD survey goes to a sample of the R and D population, consisting of known R and D performers. This population is refreshed each year from filter questions on the biennial Community Innovation Survey and the Annual Business Survey. The percentages provided above have been obtained from the BERD data and the Inter Departmental Business Register data for the relevant size bands and industries.
4. R and D data for 2010 will be published in December 2011.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to assist small business start-ups in Beckenham. [61136]

Mr Prisk: Promoting enterprise is part of the Mayor's Economic Development Strategy for London and is supported by the Greater London authority (GLA) in conjunction with the pan-London Local Enterprise Partnership, which the GLA is in the process of establishing together with London business and the London boroughs.

This year, the GLA has launched of a programme of Business Bootcamps, in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland and Capital Enterprise which will support around 1,000 London entrepreneurs to access sector-specific support targeted at the needs of their start up business. The Mayor has also funded the British Library Intellectual Property centre to help it continue its work supporting London's small businesses start-ups.

BIS are also undertaking a major programme to change the way people can get the information, guidance and support they need to start and run a business. These will be available to start-ups across England and include:

a dedicated 'Getting Started area' providing online training within a revamped Business Link website;

a contact centre to help those who cannot find the information they need on the web or who are not connected to the internet;

working alongside the British Bankers Association and mentoring providers to establish a network of business mentors offering practical advice to those who want to start or grow a business;

establishing a new Business Coaching for Growth Programme to enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with high growth potential to realise their potential; and

a renewed and streamlined portfolio of publicly-funded business improvement products through the Solutions for Business portfolio providing focused support to SMEs and start-ups.

Small Businesses: Loans

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the level of bank lending to small businesses in Wales. [58978]

Mr Prisk: Figures published in May by the Bank of England show that the UK's five largest banks lent £16.8 billion to UK Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the first quarter of this year, against a target of £76 billion of new lending in 2011. This means they are currently not on track to meet the targets agreed to in Project Merlin—a situation which the Government will continue to monitor closely to consider whether it is necessary to take any further action.

SME lending data collected by BIS and published by the Bank of England in "Trends in Lending" shows that demand for credit remains at historically low levels, but that credit availability had increased slightly for businesses overall. The Bank of England's Credit Conditions Survey 2011 Q1 noted that SMEs overall were experiencing tighter conditions than large corporates, though for those with strong asset positions or cashflows they had improved.

The Department does not, at present, collect information by region and country, but we are not aware of any disparities. The British Bankers Association (BBA) has committed to funding an independent quarterly survey of SMEs on access to finance and also to publish a more detailed dataset on lending. The results of the first survey will be available in July 2011, and the survey should provide more qualitative information on regional lending. The first enhanced dataset on lending should be published in the autumn and will provide more quantitative information on regional lending. In both cases, regional breakdowns will be made available.

We also continue to monitor the level of lending through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, which is aimed at small businesses without collateral or a track record. In Wales, since January 2009, 635 businesses have been offered loans through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, with a total value of £56.15 million. Of these, 550 have been drawn down, totalling £47.77 million.

South East England Development Agency

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which sites are owned by the South East England regional development agency within the boundaries of *(a)* Basingstoke and Deane borough council, *(b)* East Hampshire district council, *(c)* Eastleigh borough council, *(d)* Fareham borough council, *(e)* Gosport borough council, *(f)* Hart district council and *(g)* Havant borough council. [62309]

Mr Prisk: South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) owns the following sites within the boundaries of:

(d) Fareham borough council

Deadalus (part), Lee-on-the-Solent.

(e) Gosport borough council

Deadalus (part), Lee-on-the-Solent

Gosport Business Centre

Frater Gate Business Park, Gosport.

(g) Havant borough council

Land at Harts Farm Way, Havant.

No sites owned by SEEDA are within the boundaries of Basingstoke and Deane borough council; East Hampshire district council; Eastleigh borough council or Hart district council.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which sites are owned by the South East of England regional development agency within the boundaries of *(a)* Adur district council, *(b)* Arun district council, *(c)* Chichester district council, *(d)* Crawley borough council, *(e)* Horsham district council, *(f)* Mid Sussex district council and *(g)* Worthing borough council. [62311]

Mr Prisk: South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) own the following sites within the boundary of Adur district council:

Ropetackle, Shoreham; and

Adur Business Centre, Shoreham.

No sites owned by SEEDA are within the boundaries of Arun district council; Chichester district council; Crawley borough council; Horsham district council; Mid Sussex district council and Worthing borough council.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 663W, on the Audit Commission, if he will place in the Library a copy of the itemised bill for the Audit Commission Board dinner at Bentley's Seafood restaurant. [61764]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter fro Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 June 2011:

Your parliamentary question outlined above has been passed to me for reply.

The Commission does not hold an itemised bill for this event.

Audit Commission: Flowers

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on the purchase of flowers for display between January 2007 and May 2010. [61800]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 28 June 2011:

Your parliamentary question has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission spent £6,535.13 on the purchase of flowers for display between January 2007 and May 2010. We purchased the flowers for reception areas in our London, Bristol and Leicester offices. We stopped buying flowers for the Leicester office in July 2009. We stopped buying flowers for the Bristol and London office in September 2010. A breakdown of flower purchases for each office is shown below:

£

Office	*January to December 2007*	*January to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*	*January to May 2010*	*Total*
London	1,710.00	1,560.00	1,559.88	649.95	5,479.83
Bristol	122.81	418.34	198.22	15.93	755.30
Leicester	[1]—	[1]—	300.00	0.00	300.00
Total	1,832.81	1,978.34	2,058.10	665.88	6,535.13

[1] Records no longer available

Commission for Local Administration in England

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* complaints were considered, *(b)* complaints were resolved within three months and *(c)* members of staff were employed by the Local Government Ombudsman in each of the last five years. [59991]

Robert Neill: The data in the following table relate to the number of complaints forwarded to the Local Government Ombudsman's investigative teams for investigation.

		Complaints determined within 13 weeks		
	Complaints investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Average full time equivalent number of staff employed by the Local Government Ombudsman*
2006-07	13,069	6,221	46.6	201
2007-08	13,458	7,362	54.7	190
2008-09	11,687	6,241	53.4	185
2009-10	10,309	5,856	56.8	187
2010-11	9,983	5,411	54.2	224

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60705]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss a range of matters. Similarly, discussions are had with officials and Ministers on the whole range of departmental responsibilities.

So far as I am aware, Ministers in this Department have had no recent discussions with outside organisations on this specific topic.

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Valuation Office Agency applies in determining the order in which valuation appeal hearings are to be heard. [61896]

Robert Neill: The arrangement for the listing of appeals is a statutory duty of the President of the Valuation Tribunal for England—Regulation 5 of The Valuation Tribunal for England (Council Tax and Rating Appeals)(Procedure) Regulations 2009—and not the Valuation Office Agency. Appeals are listed within six weeks of the Valuation Office Agency's target date under the programming scheme they adopt.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61173]

Robert Neill: The Department's office properties are leased so there are no capital values to report. Details of the leased properties outside of Greater London, including the address, the annual rental value, length of the lease and the utilization figures are set out in the following table.

In the last year the Department has taken action to dispose of its residual property liabilities as quickly as possible. We have reduced running costs by over £4 million per annum through the assignment and sub-letting of surplus accommodation. By the end of September 2011 the Department will have completed the surrender of three major buildings delivering an additional £6.3 million per annum in savings.

The Department holds office property outside of London for three purposes:

1. Accommodation for continuing functions including the ERDF programmes, resilience, internal audit, town planning.

2. Accommodation for back office services carried out by Finance (Hemel Hempstead) and Records Management (Hastings).

3. Buildings comprising the Government Office Network residual property estate are held pending disposal.

The Department also holds two specialised non-office properties previously occupied by the Fire Experimental Unit at the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh and Hanger 97 at Little Rissington airfield, Gloucestershire. Again these properties are held pending disposal.

Belgrave Centre, Nottingham

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	4,095
Space being marketed (m^2)	0
Annual rent (£)	1,690,594

Note:
The lease expires in July 2011

Cunard Building, Liverpool

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	3,507
Space being marketed (m^2)	0
Annual rent (£)	381,294

Note:
The lease expires in September 2011

Queen Street, Leeds

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	3,302
Space being marketed (m^2)	1,996
Annual rent (£)	670,023

Note:
The lease expires in 2014

77 Paradise Circus Queensway, Birmingham

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	3,463
Space being marketed (m^2)	1,800
Annual rent (£)	681,778

Note:
The lease expires in 2014

Mast House, Plymouth

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	1,645
Space being marketed (m^2)	1,461
Annual rent (£)	323,257

Note:
There is a lease break in 2016

Westbrook Suites 8, 9 and 10 Cambridge

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	602
Space being marketed (m^2)	602
Annual rent (£)	128,304

Note:
The lease expires in 2013.

Bridge House, Guildford

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	3,587
Space being marketed (m^2)	2,748
Annual rent (£)	786,676

Note:
The lease expires in October 2015

Citygate, Newcastle

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	6,095
Space being marketed (m^2)	48
Annual rent (£)	1,438,865

Note:
The lease expires in 2019

Lateral, Leeds

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	5,612
Space being marketed (m^2)	2,875
Annual rent (£)	1,516,099

Note:
The lease expires in 2022

5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham

	m^2/£
Total floor area (m^2)	6,024
Space being marketed (m^2)	1,630

5 St Philip's Place, Birmingham

	m²/£
Annual rent (£)	2,039,878

Note:
The lease expires in 2020

Eastbrook Centre, Cambridge

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	5,195
Space being marketed (m²)	2,500
Annual rent (£)	1,793,119

Note:
There is a lease break in 2018

2 Rivergate, Bristol

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	6,440
Space being marketed (m²)	1,128
Annual rent (£)	1,853,766

Note:
There is a lease break in 2022

Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester—Sharing with Tenants Services Authority

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	104
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	93,600

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Arpley House, Warrington—Sharing with Homes and Communities Agency

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	328
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	174,420

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Vulcan House, Sheffield—Sharing with Home Office

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	77
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	27,584

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Cumberland House, Nottingham—Sharing with Homes and Communities Agency

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	280
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	147,405

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Longbrook House, Exeter—Sharing with HM Revenue and Customs

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	120
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	27,106

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Lysnoweth, Truro—Sharing with HM Revenue and Customs

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	104
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	17,574

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Princes Parade, Liverpool—Sharing with the Charities Commission

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	250
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	100,143

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Temple Quay House Bristol—Sharing with the Planning Inspectorate

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	574
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual rent (£)	165,212

[1] All used
Note:
The occupation agreement can be terminated on 12 month's notice at any time.

Hempstead House, Hemel Hempstead

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	1816
Space being marketed (m²)	580
Annual rent (£)	276,000

Note:
The lease expires in 2013

Ashdown House, Hastings

	m²/£
Total floor area (m²)	350
Space being marketed (m²)	[1]—
Annual charge for rent rates, utilities and services (£)	50,438

[1] All used
Note:
Leave after a minimum one year's notice served before 31 March in each year.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60905]

Robert Neill: The principal holding of visual data in DCLG is the visual product of CCTV systems. Such data are managed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The data are handled by security guards who have achieved the appropriate Security Industry Authority endorsed qualification (Level 2 award

in CCTV Operations—public space surveillance) and who are licensed by the Security Industry Authority to handle such data.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61707]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of work force management information across the civil service and its agencies.

The Department and its agencies already publish detailed headcount data, senior salaries and organograms and financial, property and procurement information with the Office for National Statistics and in conjunction with the wider commitment to publish data via HM Treasury for publication on the data.gov.uk website.

EU Grants and Loans: Yorkshire and the Humber

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 50W, on EU grants and loans: Yorkshire and the Humber, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the funding from the European Regional Development Fund allocated to Yorkshire and the Humber and not yet committed is spent within the region; and over what period the €326,521,131 not yet committed is available. [62702]

Robert Neill: My Department monitors the progress of European Regional Development Fund programmes in meeting their annual spend targets. The Yorkshire and Humber Development Fund programme has, so far, met its annual spend targets and we will continue to monitor its progress in meeting the 2011 target. The programmes have until 31 December 2015 to complete spending the funds.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications from Yorkshire and the Humber for funding from the European Regional Development Fund are under consideration. [62703]

Robert Neill: A total of 101 applications for funding from the Yorkshire and Humber European Regional Development Fund programme are currently under consideration.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to facilitate the transition from the regional development agency to his Department of the decision-making process on applications to the European regional development fund from Yorkshire and the Humber. [62704]

Robert Neill: We are retaining the European regional development fund team, currently employed by Yorkshire Forward, to ensure continuity in the process of appraising and approving projects.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in his Department will be handling applications to the European Regional Development Fund from Yorkshire and the Humber in that region from 1 July 2011. [62705]

Robert Neill: The final figure will not be known until 1 July, the date of transfer, but our current expectation is that 27 staff will be managing the European Regional Development Fund in that area.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential for delay in the decision-making process on applications to the European regional development fund from Yorkshire and the Humber; and what steps his Department is taking to minimise any such delay. [62706]

Robert Neill: We anticipate minimal delay in the decision-making process on European regional development fund applications, because we are retaining the development fund team, currently employed by Yorkshire Forward.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60686]

Robert Neill: The directives in force on 1 April 2010 for which this Department is responsible, as lead Department are:

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC)
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC)
Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).

This Department is also responsible for implementing parts of the following directives, but is not the lead Department on them:

Public Participation Directive (2003/3 5/EC)
Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC)
Framework Directive (89/391/EEC)
Workplace Directive (89/654/EEC)
Chemical Agents Directive (98/24/EC)
Explosive Atmospheres Directive (99/92/EC).

For the last four directives on the list, the Department's responsibility is confined to the general fire safety precautions at work aspects of the directives.

There are no directives that have come into force since 1 April 2010 for which this Department is responsible.

Fire Services

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the Government to publish its response to the consultation on the FiReControl Project. [62536]

Robert Neill: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 927W, to the hon. Member for Derby North (Chris Williamson).

Fire Services: Pensions

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the reform of fire service pension schemes. [60594]

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with Ministers in HM Treasury on proposed reforms to fire service pension schemes. [62293]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from Her Majesty's Treasury to discuss a range of matters.

Fire Services: Public Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will assess the effects of the timing of his announcement of the formula grant funding to be made available to fire and rescue services in 2014-15 on the ability of such services to make provision for continuity of service; and if he will make a statement; [62777]

(2) whether he has issued guidance to the fire and rescue service on changes to service delivery resulting from the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [62778]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 305W. I also refer him to my letter to fire and rescue authorities on the spending review of 20 October 2010, a copy of which is already in the Library of the House.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rescues from fires the fire service carried out in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [62775]

Robert Neill: The numbers of people rescued from fires by firefighters in the West Midlands in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

Rescues from fires by firefighters in the West Midlands, 2006-07 to 2010-11[1]

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11[1]
Hereford and Worcester	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	23	26
Shropshire	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	20	19
Staffordshire	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	54	42
Warwickshire	[2]—	[2]—	13	27	21
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	175	155	132	138	169
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	262	277

[1] Provisional.
[2] Numbers of rescues are not held centrally for most Fire and Rescue Services prior to April 2009.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Incident Databases, DCLG

Hartlepool Borough Council

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on allowing Hartlepool borough council to change its model of local authority governance from elected mayor to *(a)* leader and cabinet and *(b)* councillor committee structure; and if he will make a statement. [61952]

Robert Neill: The people of Hartlepool voted in a referendum to have an elected mayor. It is open to the people to vote in a referendum to change this governance model, statute providing that any such referendum can be held only after 10 years from the initial referendum.

Homelessness: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Sunderland Central constituency were classed as homeless in the last 12 months. [61991]

Grant Shapps: Homelessness data are not collected at constituency level.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

Local authority level tables giving this information for 2010-11 are published in live table 784 at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1918724.xls

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count—which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, the coalition Government wanted a more complete measure of rough sleeping and when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers—taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table 2 at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1845849.xls

Under new guidance all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Housing: Thames Gateway

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1206W, on housing: Thames Gateway, how many new additional dwellings were provided throughout the entire Thames Gateway in each year between 2001-02 and 2009-10. [62229]

Grant Shapps: The number of additional homes provided in the Thames Gateway in each of the years from 2001-02 to 2009-10 is as follows:

	Number
2001-02	5,440
2002-03	5,980
2003-04	6,610
2004-05	7,040
2005-06	7,520
2006-07	6,720
2007-08	7,510
2008-09	5,930
2009-10	7,780
Total	60,530

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he proposes that local enterprise partnerships should hold their board meetings in public. [62155]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Local enterprise partnerships are locally led partnerships of business and civic leaders, coming together to provide clear vision and strategic leadership to drive sustainable economic growth. The constitution and legal status of each partnership will be a matter for the partners, informed by the activities that they wish to pursue. We expect partnerships to be fully open and transparent but it is for local areas to decide what reporting mechanisms are appropriate. Governance structures will need to be sufficiently robust and clear to ensure proper accountability for delivery.

Local Government Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on regional differences in the application of formula grants in the *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived areas; and if he will make a statement. [62776]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Finance settlement for 2011-2012 was approved by the House of Commons on 9 February 2011. A large number of representations were received covering all aspects of the settlement, including funding for deprived areas.

The Government recognise that some areas of the country are much more reliant on central Government grant than others and that these tend to be more deprived communities. The settlement therefore ensures that the weight given to levels of need in the formula has been increased, so that more money follows socio-economic indicators, and Transition Grant funding. Some £96 million in 2011-12, is going to the most dependent areas.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the likely effects of extending the eligibility criteria for Small Business Rate Relief. [61644]

Robert Neill: Small Business Rate Relief is funded by a supplement on the rate bills of larger businesses. It is therefore important to strike a fair balance between the interests of ratepayers receiving the relief and ratepayers funding the relief. We believe that the scheme does that and therefore have no plans to extend the eligibility criteria.

We have, however, doubled the level of Small Business Rate Relief for two years, until 30 September 2012. Eligible ratepayers with rateable values below £6,000 will pay no rates at all for that period, while ratepayers with rateable values between £6,000 and £12,000 will receive tapered relief from 100% to 0%. The Government are fully funding the extra costs of the relief.

Planning Permission

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many expressions of interest in establishing a neighbourhood plan his Department has received from each local authority area. [61745]

Robert Neill: Through the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners scheme, we have invited all local planning authorities to apply for grants of up to £20,000 to prepare a neighbourhood-level plan in close collaboration with the local community. The number of project proposals so far received by the Department from each local planning authority is set out in the following table:

Local authority	*Number of applications*
Allerdale	1
Arun	1
Birmingham	2
Blaby	1
Breckland	1
Brentwood	1
Bristol	3
Broadland	6
Cherwell	2
Cheshire East	4
Cheshire West and Chester	1
Cornwall	1
Crawley	1
Dacorum	1
East Lindsey	2
East Northamptonshire	2
Enfield	1
Exmoor National Park Authority	1
Gateshead	1
Gedling	1
Hartlepool	1
Herefordshire	2
High Peak/Staffordshire Moorlands	1
Hinckley and Bosworth	1
Kensington and Chelsea	1
Lake District National Park Authority	1
Lewes	1
Lincoln	1
Melton	2
Milton Keynes	4
Mole Valley	1
Newark and Sherwood	1
North Kesteven	1
North Somerset	1
North Tyneside	1
Northumberland County	1
Northumberland National Park Authority	1
Redcar and Cleveland	1
Rushcliffe	1
Shropshire	5
South Gloucestershire	1
South Holland	1
South Norfolk	8
South Northamptonshire	1
South Somerset	1
Southwark	2
St Helens	1
Sunderland	1
Sutton	1
Swale	1
Swindon	1
Teignbridge	1
Telford and Wrekin	3
Torbay	1
Uttlesford	1
West Dorset	2
West Lindsey	1
Wiltshire	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	2
Wirral	2
Wolverhampton	3

Planning Permission: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals were submitted because of non-determination by St Albans District Council in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [61651]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the number of planning appeals submitted because of non-determination by St Albans District Council in each of the last five years.

	Number
2006-07	2
2007-08	1
2008-09	3
2009-10	0
2010-11	9
Total	15

Shops: Empty Property

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department has provided to towns with high rates of empty shops in each of the last three years. [60342]

Robert Neill: The coalition Government are taking action to support our town centres in recognition of their significant economic, social, and tourism benefits. We are determined to strengthen the ability for local communities to decide what development they want in their area and recognise that town centres are at the heart of our communities and neighbourhoods.

We have introduced additional small business rate relief for two years from October 2010 which will help small firms and small shops, and reflect the fact that business rates are often the third biggest outgoing after staff and rent.

We are consulting on changes to the use class order, which would include allowing empty commercial premises to be converted into residential use.

We are committed to retain a 'town centre first' planning policy, which recognises the importance of achieving a broad range of retailer representation, both small and large, and asks local authorities to plan for a strong retail mix so that the quality of retail on offer meets the needs of the local area. This will continue to be strongly expressed through the forthcoming national planning policy framework which is due to be published later this summer.

Mary Portas has been asked by Government to lead an independent review into the future of the high street. It will identify what Government, local authorities and businesses can do to promote the development of more prosperous and diverse high streets, recognising that town centre vacancy rates have doubled over the last two years, and will be reporting later in the year.

Information on the policy decisions of the last administration can be found on the National Archives web archive, including a press release dated 14 April 2009.

Social Services: Finance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the potential implications for local authority funding of the forthcoming Dilnot Commission report. [62436]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The report by the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, chaired by Andrew Dilnot, will be published on 4 July. The Government will consider the implications of the report, including the costs of proposed reforms, once the final recommendations have been received.

Sonae Factory: Fires

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on which dates the Fire Service has been called to the Sonae factory in Kirkby in the last 10 years; what the estimated cost to the Fire Service of each such callout was; and whether Fire Service personnel sustained any injuries during each such callout. [61236]

Robert Neill: The Department holds records of all individual incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services since the introduction of the Incident Recording System, which Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service implemented on 1 April 2008. These records show that incidents were attended on 18 October 2009, 8 July 2010, 13 October 2010 and 7 December 2010.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has advised that it has attended a total of 28 incidents at the Sonae factory in Kirkby since February 2000, that some minor injuries to Fire and Rescue Service staff were sustained at these, and that estimates of the cost of attendance have not been made.

Third Sector

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hours Ministers in his Department spent volunteering in the last 12 months as part of the Government's big society initiative. [61224]

Robert Neill: Charitable giving is a personal matter for individuals, although it is encouraged by Government. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), and his ministerial team, like all Government Ministers, have pledged to undertake a "one day challenge" with a charity or community group of their choice. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

As an example of how Ministers are contributing to the wider giving agenda, the Government are strongly supporting initiatives that help to raise aspirations in schools. These include the "Speakers for Schools" initiative, which aims to get inspirational high profile people from a range of backgrounds to speak for free in state schools. The scheme is non-political and has significant cross-party support.

A list of the charities and voluntary groups that Ministers are closely involved with can also be found in the Cabinet Office's List of Ministers' Interests, at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/ministers-interests.pdf

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62072]

Mr Duncan: The special advisers at the Department for International Development (DFID) have claimed no expenses in the last 12 months.

DFID has no unpaid special advisers.

Developing Countries: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to contribute to the World Bank's food price stability fund for the developing world. [62159]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has not provided any funding to the World Bank's Group's Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP), other than indirectly through our core contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association which co-funds the GFRP.

Developing Countries: Health

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effects on public health in developing countries of provision of frontline nurses, midwives and doctors funded by development aid. [62082]

Mr O'Brien: According to the World Health Organisation, there is a global shortage of 3.5 million health workers worldwide. Africa alone needs 1.5 million. The UK recognises that a strong health work force is essential for well functioning health systems in developing countries. I attended and spoke at a Save the Children UK Midwives and Development Supporters event on 1 April 2010.

The UK will continue to help countries to develop their own health care systems in a way that suits their needs and contexts, including support to country efforts to build and maintain health worker capacity.

Fire Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will bring forward proposals to increase the grant given by his Department to those fire and rescue services who participate in the United Kingdom Fire Service International Search and Rescue Team; and if he will make a statement. [62779]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) pays for the deployment of UK fire and rescue service personnel to disasters overseas. DFID also makes a regular payment to enable the UK fire and rescue service to maintain readiness for international search and rescue. Although this facility draws on the services of several UK brigades, this payment is handled on behalf of those brigades by the Lincolnshire fire and rescue service, through which DFID pays £241,230 for the period 2009 to 2012. DFID and the UK fire and rescue service keep this amount under review jointly. At present both DFID and the UK fire and rescue service find it sufficient and therefore have no immediate plans to increase it.

India: Climate Change

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are of his Department's Climate Change and Energy Unit in India. [62095]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK's approach to climate change in India is a joint unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID), the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It works with the Government of India and other partners to promote a credible, fair and ambitious global agreement for climate change mitigation and adaptation; rapid investment in low-carbon growth; and increased resilience of the poor to the impact of climate change.

India: Overseas Aid

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid to India delivered through the private sector he plans to provide in the form of *(a)* grants, *(b)* concessional loans and *(c)* other loans up to 2015. [62096]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We are still discussing the details of our proposed support through the private sector including the financing mechanisms, with the Government of India.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of aid allocated by his Department to India he plans to spend in *(a)* Orissa, *(b)* Madhya Pradhesh, *(c)* Bihar and *(d)* West Bengal in the period up to 2015. [62133]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Our plans are still under discussion with the Government of India, but I envisage that about two-thirds of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) work in India between now and 2015 will support three of India's poorest states—Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his priorities are for the outcomes of aid provided by his Department to North Sudan. [61926]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) will deliver assistance to both Sudan and South Sudan, after the latter's independence on 9 July 2011. In Sudan, over the next four years UK assistance intends to deliver: (i) nutrition support for 6 million people; (ii) sustainable access to clean water and sanitation for 800,000 people; and (iii) access to justice services such as legal aid for 250,000 people. Further results will be announced in DFID's operational plan for Sudan which will be published in July.

EDUCATION

Academies

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of academies were operating under the 2003 national agreement on raising standards and tackling workload in the latest period for which figures are available. [61580]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The Department does not collect data of this nature from academies or from maintained schools prior to acquiring academy status. Academies are not subject to the statutory pay and conditions arrangements for teachers as laid out in the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document, including any subsequent changes that were made to the document resulting from the national agreement. They are, however, free to adopt their provisions if they wish to do so.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many representations he has received *(a)* in support of and *(b)* against the expansion of the academies scheme since May 2010; and if he will make a statement. [61689]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The academies programme is enormously popular. 1,244 schools have applied to be an academy since June 2010 and 430 have converted already and opened as academies. Research findings are clear that increasing autonomy is linked to raising standards and the latest GCSE results show that standards in academies continue to improve faster than the national average. There remain, of course, those who are opposed to the expansion of the academies programme, but the Government are clear about its benefits and I am delighted that so many schools governors and head teachers also recognise this and are applying for their schools to become academies.

Vulnerable Children

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the reasons were for the transfer to his Department of all responsibilities relating to services for vulnerable children; and what assessment he has made of the effect of that transfer on children. [60480]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* Decisions about ministerial responsibilities and machinery of government are for the Prime Minister of the day. Areas of policy relating to vulnerable children were transferred to predecessors of the Department for Education by the previous Administration in line with the policy approach set out in the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'. No evaluation has been made of the impact of the transfer.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the caseload of each Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service region was on the most recent date for which figures are available; [61492]

(2) how many cases were unallocated in each Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service region on the most recent date for which figures are available. [61493]

Tim Loughton: At the end of May 2011 there were 13 unallocated public law care cases out of a total caseload of 12,779, and 268 unallocated private law cases out of a total caseload of 26,881. The following table shows the size of caseload and the number of unallocated cases for each CAFCASS operational area.

	Public law care		*Private law*	
CAFCASS operational area	*Unallocated cases*	*Total caseload*	*Unallocated cases*	*Total caseload*
North operational area	0	3,296	11	6,763
Central operational area	5	5,640	48	11,003
South operational area	8	3,843	159	9,054
CAFCASS intake team	0	0	50	61
National	13	12,779	268	26,881

Data are taken from the CAFCASS management system as a snapshot on 31 May 2011.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration he has given to the recommendations of the Family Justice Review in respect of the future of the function of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service within his Department. [61494]

Tim Loughton: The Family Justice Review panel's recommendations on the future of court social work services form part of its interim proposals, published in March 2011. The panel is conducting a wide-ranging consultation on these proposals before presenting its final report in the autumn. The Government will consider these final recommendations before deciding how to implement reforms to the family justice system.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service will be for 2011-12. [61491]

Tim Loughton: The budget for Children and Family Court Advisory Service in 2011-12 is £128 million.

Children: Private Care

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what statutory responsibilities county councils have for children in private care. [60966]

Tim Loughton: The Children Act 1989 and the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 set out the responsibilities of local authorities for children in private fostering arrangements. This includes requirements for regular visits to the child and carer(s) and assessments of the arrangement. Additionally, it outlines the authority's obligation to raise awareness of private fostering locally and the need for carers, parents and other persons involved to notify the authority of arrangements as well as monitoring their own practice.

Children: Social Services

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for future recruitment of children's social workers; and if he will make a statement. [60161]

Tim Loughton: Since the introduction of the social work degree in 2003 there have been steady increases in the numbers enrolling in social work education to the current level of approximately 5,500 per annum.

The Social Work Reform Board—facilitated by DfE, DH and BIS —is working to improve the quality of social work education and to ensure that the best entrants are attracted to and selected for the degree. They are also developing a tool to help monitor the supply and demand of social workers which will enable better work force planning by employers and higher education institutions.

Other steps we are taking to ensure a supply of high calibre children and families social workers include the Step Up to Social Work scheme which provides employer-led social work training for career changers, and the Return to Social Work scheme to support those who have spent some time away from the profession to return to practice.

In her recent report on child protection Professor Munro also made recommendations on improving the quality of social work training to ensure that social work students are prepared for the challenges of child protection work. We are currently considering her recommendations and will publish our response by the summer.

Classroom Assistants: Training

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people entering teaching assistant training courses in each year since 2005. [60948]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The available information relates to the number of candidates who have achieved standards to be awarded the HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) status.

The following table provides this information for the years 2005/06 to 2009/10, as well as provisional figures for 2010/11.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11[1]
England—cumulative total	14,880	20,180	25,790	31,160	37,280	38,670
North East	510	330	300	330	330	50
North West	1,110	650	680	610	710	230
Yorkshire and the Humber	900	700	700	600	700	200
East Midlands	700	450	560	510	590	70
West Midlands	760	530	540	580	710	130
East of England	680	510	530	620	710	180
London	500	610	670	590	630	170
South East	1,100	870	920	880	940	240
South West	960	670	690	660	810	120

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Includes candidates who have achieved standards to be awarded the HLTA status, and not the total number as registered as looking for assessment to standard.
2. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts as numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's HLTA database

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60709]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has taken a keen interest in the review of employment law, particularly in the areas that are of most relevance to the Department. In support of this officials from the Department are in touch with their counterparts in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to make sure that the work force reforms of both Departments are coherent and consistent.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60190]

Tim Loughton: The Department is currently implementing the package of support to open up Government procurement to help small and medium-sized enterprises and third sector organisations announced by the Cabinet Office in February 2011.

This includes streamlining the procurement process to remove unnecessary bureaucracy and waste, improving the transparency of public procurement opportunities and ensuring the timely payment by contractors to sub-contractors.

The Department already advertises all relevant contracts on Contracts Finder, flags up any contract advert placed in the *Official Journal of the European Union* if there may be sub-contracting opportunities for SMEs, uses simplified contractual documentation, encourages innovation through output based specifications, splitting requirements into smaller lots, encourages the use of consortia, publicises issued tender documents and contracts on Contracts Finder and supports new businesses through flexibility on qualifying documentation, e.g. financial accounts,

Our SME Action Plan is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/policiesandprocedures/procurement/a0077623/small-and-medium-enterprise-sme-procurement-action-plan

Our records for the year ending March 2010 show that the value of contracts awarded to SMEs was 26% of total procurement spend which exceeds the Government's target of 25% and we expect that percentage to increase during 2011/12 as a result of the action we are taking.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60337]

Tim Loughton: In the period 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011 the Department for Education made 20 statutory instruments. In addition, one statutory instrument came into force in that period although it was made before it. The statutory instruments are set out in the following tables.

In relation to the majority of those statutory instruments, it was envisaged that there would be little or no impact upon business, charities, voluntary bodies or the public sector as explained in the Explanatory Memorandum for each.

In the case of the two statutory instruments listed, impact assessments were carried out which identified the likely costs implications associated with their implementation. These impact assessments can be viewed using the links provided.

The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503850/pdfs/ukdsiem_9780111503850_en.pdf

The Visits to Former Looked After Children in Detention (England) Regulations 2010

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2797/pdfs/uksiem_20102797_en.pdf

The following statutory instruments were made and came into force between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011:

Title	*Made*	*Laid*	*In force*
The Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011	2 March 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Data Protection Act 1998 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2011	2 March 2011	n/a	2 March 2011
The Education (Head Teachers' Qualifications) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	2 March 2011	9 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Arrangements for Placement of Children by Voluntary Organisations and Others (England) Regulations 2011	3 March 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Children's Homes (Amendment) Regulations 2011	3 March 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Childcare (Exemptions from Registration) (Amendment) Order 2011	3 March 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011	3 March 2011	10 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Teachers' Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2011	3 March 2011	9 March 2011	1 April 2011
The Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011	9 March 2011	n/a	1 April 2011
The Education (Free School Lunches) (Prescribed Tax Credits) (England) (Amendment) Order 2011	10 March 2011	16 March 2011	6 April 2011
The Education (Residential Trips) (Prescribed Tax Credits) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	10 March 2011	16 March 2011	6 April 2011
The School Finance (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	14 March 2011	18 March 2011	10 April 2011
The Visits to Children in Long-Term Residential Care Regulations 2011	29 March 2011	31 March 2011	25 April 2011
The Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2011	1 April 2011	n/a	1 April 2011
The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (Independent Schools) (England) (No. 2) Order 2011	21 April 2011	n/a	21 April 2011
The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (England) (Amendment) Order 2011	26 May 2011	n/a	26 May 2011

The following statutory instruments were made between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 but will come into force after 31 May 2011:

Title	*Made*	*Laid*	*In force*
The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	24 March 2011	31 March 2011	1 September 2011
The St Mary's College, Middlesbrough (Dissolution) Order 2011	1 April 2011	7 April 2011	31 July 2011
The Academies Act (Commencement No. 2) Order 2011	25 April 2011	n/a	1 August 2011
The Education (Nutritional Standards and Requirements for School Food) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	28 April 2011	5 May 2011	1 September 2011
The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Provisions) (Amendment) Order 2011	26 May 2011	2 June 2011	30 June 2011

The following statutory instrument was made before 1 March 2011 but came into force between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011:

Title	*Made*	*Laid*	*In force*
The Visits to Former Looked After Children in Detention (England) Regulations 2010	19 November 2010	25 November 2010	1 April 2011

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60497]

Tim Loughton: In the period 1 March 2011 to 31 May 2011, the Department for Education made two revoking statutory instruments. These are as follows:

Title	*Made*	*Laid*	*In force*
The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011	24 March 2011	31 March 2011	1 September 2011
The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (Independent Schools) (England) (No. 2) Order 2011	21 April 2011	n/a	n/a

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2011

These regulations revoke the following regulations in full:

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) Regulations 2004;

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005;

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006;

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007;

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008; and

The Education (School Performance Targets) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

They also revoke Regulation 3 of the Education (Local Authority and School Performance Targets) (Revocation and Amendment) (England) Regulations 2010.

The main effect of the regulations is to revoke the Education (School Performance Targets) (England) Regulations 2004, releasing schools from the bureaucratic burden of setting annual education performance targets and submitting these to the local authority for approval. Local authorities are also no longer required to provide school targets information to the Secretary of State. However, the saving associated with removing this bureaucratic burden has not been quantified.

The Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (Independent Schools) (England) (No. 2) Order 2011

This order revokes the Designation of Schools Having a Religious Character (Independent Schools) (England) Order 2011. It designates specified independent schools as having a religious character. As such they are permitted to take account of certain religious or denominational considerations in making specified employment decisions which relate to teaching staff (such as decisions on appointment or promotion). No annual saving will be brought about by the revocation of this order.

Education: Finance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding he expects to allocate in respect of new 16 to 19 bursaries in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15; and whether plans to raise the education participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015 were taken into consideration as part of these calculations. [54090]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 12 May 2011]:* The following table shows the funding allocated to the 16 to 19 bursary fund—including transitional support for those currently in receipt of the education maintenance allowance—in each financial year of the current spending review period:

				£ million
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Transitional support	124.1	70.1	—	—
16 to 19 bursary fund	77.0	158.5	180.0	180.0
Total	201.1	228.6	180.0	180.0

We will keep the mechanism for allocating these funds under consideration as the raising of the participation age takes effect in order to make sure that that the funding continues to reach and support those students with the greatest need.

Education: ICT

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to utilise mobile application technologies in the delivery of education services to the public. [60881]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Department for Education does not currently have any specific programmes using mobile applications to deliver education. The Government believe that effective use of technology can help raise educational standards, but that those working in the sector are best placed to make decisions about how to use the resources available to them—including technology. There is a vibrant market for educational software and content in the UK, including mobile applications and many schools and families take advantage of them. The Department's procurement frameworks for ICT in schools allow for flexibility and innovation in the delivery of content and resources to students, including the support of mobile devices.

English Baccalaureate

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration his Department has given to extending the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate to include a choice of two humanities subjects from history, geography and religious studies. [61449]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* We are considering a range of propositions that have been made to us over the content of the English Baccalaureate. We will announce the detailed composition of the English Baccalaureate for 2011 along with other details about the 2011 tables before the end of term.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60685]

Mr Gibb: There are no EU directives in force for which the Department for Education has lead responsibility.

Free School Meals: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils are eligible for free school meals in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Worcester constituency. [60764]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the table.

State-funded primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3] and special schools[4]: Free school meal eligibility[5, 6], as at January 2011, in Worcestershire local authority and Worcester parliamentary constituency

	State-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*			*Special schools[4]*		
	Number on roll[5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Number on roll[5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Number on roll[5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*
Worcestershire local authority	36,624	5,225	14.3	32,475	3,838	11.8	958	309	32.3
Worcester parliamentary constituency	6,864	1,247	18.2	5,141	687	13.4	332	92	27.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[6] Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.
Source:
School Census

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Free Schools: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many new primary school places he expects there to be in free schools in Bristol for the academic year beginning in September 2011. [61440]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* We do not expect there to be any primary school places in free schools in Bristol in September. Subject to the signing of a funding agreement there will be a secondary free school, the Bristol Free School, which will open with 150 places for year 7 pupils. In addition, subject to the signing of a funding agreement, there will be a new primary academy sponsored by E-ACT which will provide 420 places when full.

Marriage Guidance: Grants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report,* column 497W, on marriage guidance: grants, when he plans to commission the evaluation; what measures of effectiveness he expects to be assessed; and if he will estimate the proportion of funding spent on *(a)* married couples, *(b)* co-habiting couples, *(c)* civil partners, *(d)* other couples and *(e)* parents. [61056]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* Expressions of interest have already been invited from organisations to undertake the evaluation of relationship support interventions. The invitation to tender will be sent to those successful at the expression of interest stage at the end of this month. I will ensure the hon. Member receives a copy of the documentation.

Maternity Pay

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy for staff is in respect of *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* rates of pay for (i) maternity and (ii) adoption leave. [61789]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* All staff regardless of the length of service or appointment status are eligible for 28 weeks of maternity or adoption leave on full pay. All staff have the option to follow this with 24 weeks of unpaid maternity or adoption leave.

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps Ofqual plans to take during the summer of 2011 to ensure that students do not fail to achieve their first choice university place due to errors by awarding bodies, including errors in question papers, poor initial marking or delays in processing re-marks; and if he will urge awarding bodies to make redress to students who are required to defer entry until 2012 as a result of such errors. [60442]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation and the chief executive, Glenys Stacey has written directly to the hon. Member. A copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Glenys Stacey, dated 20 June 2011:

I am writing with regard to the parliamentary question you raised on 14 June asking what steps Ofqual will be taking in advance of and during the summer 2011 to ensure that students do not fail to achieve their first choice university place due to errors by awarding bodies in papers or delays.

Ofqual sets regulatory requirements for all awarding organisations including the requirement for awarding organisations to take corrective steps where any errors have occurred. Ofqual's expectation is that awarding organisations should be able to avoid significant errors in question papers and the marking process.

However, in response to six specific errors appearing in question papers being taken by candidates this summer, I wrote to all awarding organisations on 7 June asking them to carry out extra quality assurance checks on all the papers which students were

still to sit in the summer of 2011. Awarding organisations have confirmed that these checks have taken place.

Ofqual has also received assurance from awarding organisations that any students who have sat one of the question papers that included a mistake can be confident that procedures are in place to make sure, that so far as is possible, no student is disadvantaged or advantaged.

Any actions undertaken by awarding organisations will depend on the exact circumstances of individual cases. We will be monitoring awarding organisations to make sure their proposed approach and rationale is appropriate to the errors that have occurred.

In addition, we are undertaking a daily review of data from GCE and GCSE awards and have planned early August meetings with awarding organisations to review outcomes.

The regulatory requirement for awarding organisations to provide an Enquiry About Results (EAR) process, once results have been published, ensures that there is an avenue for requests for the review of marks where schools or students have concerns. This includes a priority service for students wishing to query an A Level result where a university place is dependent on the outcome. This enables awarding organisations to prioritise and deal with these enquiries quickly as they appreciate the timescales involved in the admissions process to Universities and confirmation of places.

I hope this answers your question, if you would like further discussion on this topic or any other regulatory matter, please do not hesitate to contact my PA.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have made representations to his Department in connection with its internal review of personal social health and economic education; and if he will make a statement; [62058]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 695W, on personal, social, health and economic education, when he expects the remit of his Department's internal review of personal, social, health and economic education to be published; and if he will make a statement. [62061]

Mr Gibb: A range of organisations including subject associations, faith groups, charitable bodies and individuals have contacted us about the internal review of personal social health and economic education.

We expect to publish the remit of the internal review of personal, social, health and economic education shortly.

Primary Education: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate his Department has made of the likely number of primary school places which will be required in Worcestershire in the next five years. [60920]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in their area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age. The Department will continue to provide capital funding and monitor the situation with local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many parental requests for authorised absence during term time were *(a)* approved and *(b)* declined in (i) Hartlepool education authority, (ii) Stockton-on-Tees education authority, (iii) Middlesbrough education authority, (iv) Redcar and Cleveland education authority, (v) Darlington education authority and (vi) England in each of the last five years. [59308]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education does not collect data on the number of parental requests for authorised absence during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that head teachers may grant leave of absence during term time. The Department looks to schools themselves to consider each request as they can only be judged on a case-by-case basis taking into account individual circumstances. We would not want to interfere with that process.

The available absence statistics can be found in the "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2009/10" Statistical First Release at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000994/index.shtml

The authorised absence rates for Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington local authorities and England for 2009/10 are shown in the table.

Maintained primary, state-funded secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3]: Pupil absence by type of school 2009/10. In Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Darlington local authorities and England

	Percentage of sessions missed due to authorised absence[4]:			
	Maintained primary schools[1]	*State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]*	*Special schools[3]*	*Total*
Hartlepool	4.49	5.40	6.98	4.96
Stockton-on-Tees	4.57	5.S3	8.08	5.19
Middlesbrough	4.67	5.57	7.72	5.11
Redcar and Cleveland	4.57	5.73	9.74	5.20
Darlington	4.81	5.35	6.58	5.08
England	4.54	5.43	8.30	5.00

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] The number of sessions missed due to authorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
Source:
School Census

School Meals

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the abolition of school lunch grant; [60104]

(2) if he will assess the effect on Bolton metropolitan borough of the abolition of school lunch grant. [60939]

Mr Gibb: The funding for schools provided through the school lunch grant has not been abolished, but continues to be available through the Dedicated Schools

Grant in 2011-12. This will allow schools to make their own decisions about the use of this funding. This is in line with the Government's drive to devolve responsibility for making decisions about the best use of resources to professionals in schools.

Consistent with our philosophy of reducing bureaucracy and increasing the professional autonomy of schools, we have no plans to collect information from individual local authorities on the impact of freeing up resources in this way.

Supplementary Schools

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools on effective safeguarding training in supplementary schools. [61899]

Tim Loughton: Officials in the Department for Education will be meeting representatives of ContinYou, the organisation which manages the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Schools, to discuss issues of safeguarding in relation to supplementary schools. No discussions have been held at ministerial level.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the requirement in supplementary schools for *(a)* effective safeguarding and *(b)* training in behaviour management; and if he will make a statement. [61900]

Tim Loughton: I am clear that effective safeguarding and behaviour management are important in any informal out of school activities, including supplementary schools. No formal assessment has been undertaken at a national level. Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in their areas.

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what measures are in place to safeguard children attending supplementary schools; and how much his Department has allocated to safeguarding in supplementary schools in 2011-12. [62017]

Tim Loughton: The measures in place to safeguard children in supplementary schools are the same as those for all children in informal, out of school hours, activities and learning.

Where the local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child may be at risk of significant harm the local authority must make such enquiries as are necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare[1].

In addition, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 made it an offence for a barred individual to work closely with children in any setting and, subject to Royal Assent of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, all supplementary schools will need to have performed a barred list check on all unsupervised workers.

In 2006, the Department and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation agreed to provide pump-prime funding to establish a National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (NRC). In 2009-10 the Department for Education allocated £350,000 of grant funding to the NRC and a further £95,000 was allocated in 2010-11. The funding, which ended in March this year, has allowed the NRC to develop an approach to raising the standards of teaching, learning, management and safeguarding in those supplementary schools it works with. No departmental funding is being provided in 2011-12.

[1] Section 47, Children Act 1989, available at:
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/47

Schools: Careers Guidance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for inspecting the quality of new schools' careers advice services. [60512]

Mr Gibb: The revised school inspection framework will have a sharp focus on the quality of teaching, backed by excellent leadership and management, and good discipline and behaviour. Ofsted will consider outcomes such as pupils' achievement and progression rather than inputs such as the type or amount of careers guidance. The introduction of new destination measures will ensure that schools are held to account for the way in which they support their pupils to progress to higher levels of education and training, or into employment.

The Government have also accepted the recommendation of the Careers Profession Task Force to ask Ofsted to carry out a thematic review of careers guidance as a means of identifying excellent provision and establishing a baseline for future policy development. We are considering the most appropriate timing for such a review.

Schools: Food

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the policy of his Department is on the application to schools of Government buying standards on sustainably-sourced fish and seafood. [61604]

Tim Loughton: The Government Buying Standards for food and catering services are mandatory for central Government but do not apply to local authorities or individual schools.

However, schools have to meet the statutory school food standards. The standards do not include requirements to purchase sustainably sourced fish, but this is recommended as good practice in the School Food Trust's 'A Fresh look at Procurement—efficiency and sustainability' guidance:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/schools/resources/a-fresh-look-at-school-food-procurement-efficiency-and-sustainability

Schools: Legal Action

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools have taken legal action against his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [61688]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* There have been two sets of legal proceedings issued against the Department by schools in the last 12 months. Both of these were judicial reviews in relation to decisions to remove independent schools from the independent schools register.

Schools: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils at each school in Reading West constituency gained five or more GCSEs at grades of A* to C in each of the last five years. [58993]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been provided in the following table:

Secondary schools in Reading West constituency		*Number and percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*- C (including equivalents) in selected years*				
		2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	Number	75	68	71	83	102
	Percentage	52	46	51	61	80
Brookfields Special School[1]	Number	0	0	0	0	0
	Percentage	0	0	0	0	0
Denefield School	Number	132	127	105	122	146
	Percentage	64	62	50	60	71
John Madejski Academy[2]	Number	[3]—	18	34	43	58
	Percentage	[3]—	30	47	55	58
Little Heath School	Number	186	168	189	200	208
	Percentage	74	65	74	79	80
Pangbourne College	Number	57	58	63	54	59
	Percentage	80	94	89	83	88
Prospect School	Number	113	161	158	149	147
	Percentage	43	55	69	74	81
The Avenue School[1]	Number	0	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
	Percentage	0	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—
Theale Green Community School	Number	153	166	153	162	163
	Percentage	69	69	70	74	71

[1] These are maintained special schools.
[2] Figures for the John Madejski Academy are only available from 2008.
[3] Indicates figure has been suppressed due to 10 or fewer students in the institution cohort.

School Sport

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of future levels of competitive sport *(a)* within and *(b)* between schools; and if he will make a statement. [60228]

Tim Loughton: The Department is reviewing the National Curriculum programme of study for physical education to make clear that competitive sport is an integral part of the rounded education that every child in maintained schools should receive.

Subject to the outcome of the review and necessary parliamentary approval, this should ensure that all pupils aged five to 16 will play competitive sport, without exception.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), is also creating the new School Games as a further way of encouraging schools to provide more competitive sport. Through a mix of intra-school, inter-school and county-level competitions, every young person will have the chance to take part. To ensure this is possible the Government are creating a number of School Games Organisers who will promote competitions.

Schools: Standards

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools achieved a rating of outstanding in their Ofsted inspections in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North West and *(c)* Cumbria in each of the last five years. [60755]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 June 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school, Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Table A as follows shows the number of maintained schools judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 inclusive in England, the North West government office region and Cumbria local authority. It also shows the total number of inspections in each of these areas in each year.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment and deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools each year and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. This led to a skew in the sample of schools inspected and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Maintained-schools/Inspection-outcomes

The most recent official statistics release, covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11, was made public on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness at the section 5 inspection in (a) England; (b) the North West and (c) Cumbria in each of the last five years

	Number of schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness, and as a percentage of total number of inspections in the area									
	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cumbria local authority	7	8	15	10	12	11	7	7	11	11
North West GOR	106	11	217	17	201	18	216	22	116	13
England	648	11	1,150	14	1,146	15	1,327	19	782	13

	Total number of inspections in academic year				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Cumbria local authority	92	145	106	96	104
North West GOR	938	1,312	1,103	1,003	898
England	6,128	8,323	7,866	7,065	6,171

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what future arrangements he plans to make to ensure impartial student-centred careers advice is available to all students in schools. [58543]

Mr Gibb: Schools will be placed under a duty to secure access to independent careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012, subject to the passage of the Education Bill. The guidance must be presented in an impartial manner and in the best interests of the pupils concerned. Schools are otherwise free to determine how to fulfil the duty. This approach recognises that education professionals are best placed to make arrangements for careers guidance that fit the needs and circumstances of their students.

We will look to schools to ensure their pupils achieve and progress, and monitor this by publishing data on the destinations that pupils move on to after school.

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements are in place to provide careers advice in schools and sixth-form colleges. [58547]

Mr Gibb: Under section 68 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, local authorities have a duty to assist, encourage and enable the participation in education and training of young people and relevant young adults, including through the provision of careers guidance in schools and sixth-form colleges. It is for local authorities to determine how best to fulfil this duty, taking into account local priorities and the needs and circumstances of young people in their area.

From September 2012 (subject to the passage of the Education Bill through Parliament) schools will be under a duty to secure access to independent and impartial careers guidance for their pupils in years 9 to 11. This summer, we will consult on extending the duty to young people up to the age of 18 studying in schools, sixth-form colleges and further education institutions.

Schools and colleges will be free to make arrangements for careers guidance for young people that fit the needs and circumstances of their students, including determining the appropriate balance between web-based, telephone and face-to-face support.

Science: GCSE

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what longitudinal research his Department has commissioned into existing interventions to encourage students to take up science subjects at GCSE level; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such interventions. [60882]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Department has not commissioned any longitudinal research into the existing interventions to encourage students to take up science subjects at GCSE level.

However, the Department part-funds the Targeted Initiative on Science and Mathematics Education (TISME) along with the ESRC in partnership with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, The Institute of Physics and the Association of Science Education. The aim of the initiative is to help find new ways to encourage children and young people to greater achievement and understanding of Science and Mathematics- related subjects. TISME is made up of five research projects, which will examine the effectiveness of past and current initiatives and what new interventions and policies offer the potential to improve participation in science (and mathematics) up to and including A level.

The Department has published its own research from the longitudinal National Pupil Database in "Maths and science education: the supply of high achievers at A level". This publication shows trends in entries for GCSE science and progression to A Level.

Secondary Education: Teachers

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of *(a)* history, *(b)* geography and *(c)* religious education lessons at Key Stage (i) 3 and (ii) 4 were taught by a teacher specialising in the subject in the latest period for which figures are available. [61140]

Mr Gibb: Information on the qualifications and deployment of teachers in the secondary sector was collected in the annual School Workforce Census, which took place in November 2010 for the first time. Data are presented on the proportion of hours taught by teachers with a relevant post-A Level qualification in the subject, as at November 2010.

Proportion of history, geography and religious education hours taught, in a typical week, to Key Stages 3 and 4 by teachers with a relevant post A level qualification in the subject[1]

	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
	Percentage	
History	85.4	93.6
Geography	84.6	93.9
RE	69.1	73.0

[1] Percentages are based on the number of hours being taught by teachers for whom curriculum and qualifications information was provided.
Source:
School Workforce Census, November 2010

A full list of subjects and the proportion of hours taught by teachers with a relevant qualification is available in the School Workforce Statistical First Release, available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000997/index.shtml

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many teachers graduated from teacher training programmes *(a)* in each region and *(b)* from each institution in each year since 2005. [60869]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) in each region via (a) college-based courses and (b) employment-based routes is provided in the table.

The same information for each individual provider has been placed in the Library.

(a) Teachers gaining QTS via college-based courses, by Government office region, 2005/06 to 2008/09

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
England	27,010	26,980	26,470	26,650
North East	1,360	1,310	1,220	1,320
North West	4,700	5,080	4,770	4,760
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,900	2,800	2,930	2,710
East Midlands	1,640	1,570	1,620	1,550
West Midlands	2,470	2,530	2,510	2,560
East of England	2,220	2,070	2,030	2,210
London	5,060	4,900	4,890	4,740
South East	3,530	3,530	3,440	3,630
South West	2,890	2,960	2,840	2,970
Non-regional providers	240	240	240	210

Notes:
1. Includes universities and other higher education institutions, school-centred ITT and Open university but excludes employment-based routes.
2. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts as numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

Students: Finance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding his Department has allocated to Care to Learn for financial years *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [59418]

Mr Gibb: The funding allocated to the Care to Learn programme will be £38.6 million in 2011-12. Subsequent years' budgets will be confirmed in due course.

Teachers: Training

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people entering teacher training programmes in each year since 2005. [60865]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The requested information is given in the table:

Recruitment to initial teacher training (ITT), 2005/06 to 2010/11, England

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
College-based ITT courses	33,700	32,460	31,350	31,220	33,040	32,170
Employment-based ITT	7,220	7,370	7,010	6,590	6,460	6,100
Total	40,920	39,830	38,360	37,810	39,490	38,270

Notes:
1. Recruitment figures are subject to change. This table presents the latest available data.
2. Figures for college-based courses include universities, other higher education institutions, school-centred ITT and Open university. Figures for employment-based courses include the Graduate Teacher Programme, Registered Teacher Programme, Overseas Trained Teacher Programme and Teach First.
3. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts as numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA's ITT Trainee Numbers Census.

(b) Teachers gaining QTS via employment-based routes, by Government office region, 2005/06 to 2008/09

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
England	6,090	7,120	6,510	6,470
North East	180	190	220	200
North West	340	400	430	420
Yorkshire and the Humber	380	430	380	380
East Midlands	550	580	660	560
West Midlands	670	720	650	690
East of England	930	980	990	940
London	1,290	1,620	1,260	1,250
South East	1,420	1,800	1,660	1,750
South West	180	350	260	280
Non-regional providers	150	60	10	0

Notes:
1. Excludes universities and other higher education institutions, school-centred ITT and Open university.
2. Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts as numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to maintain future numbers of teachers trained to deal with pupils' hearing impairments. [61693]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* Since 2009, additional funding has been provided for 190 teachers to acquire mandatory qualifications (MQ) in teaching pupils with sensory impairments, including

pupils with hearing impairments. Of the 190 teachers, 44 will receive funded hearing impairment MQ training this academic year at a cost of £13,000 per place.

Our policy is to enable all schools, whether they are mainstream or special schools, to develop their capacity to meet the needs of children who have special educational needs or are disabled. We announced measures in the Green Paper to build professional development which included support specialist SEN training across clusters of schools. This will include further opportunities for teachers to develop skills and knowledge in teaching children with sensory impairments.

Youth Services: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much local authorities spent on the provision of youth services for the purposes of fulfilling their obligations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in 2010-11. [61032]

Tim Loughton: Information on local authority spend on youth services for 2010-11 has yet to be collected. The deadline for local authorities to submit their Section 251 outturn returns for 2010-11 is 25 August 2011. The Department expects to publish these data by January 2012.

HEALTH

Botulism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of cases of foodborne botulism poisoning in each of the last five years. [62114]

Anne Milton: There have been no reported cases of foodborne botulism in the United Kingdom over the last five years, that is illness resulting from the ingestion of food containing toxin. However, there have been seven cases of infant botulism over the last five years in which food containing bacterial spores may have been a possible source.

Cancer Drugs Fund: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received support from the Cancer Drugs Fund in the West Kent Primary Care Trust area in the latest year for which figures are available. [61939]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of patients receiving support from the Cancer Drugs Fund is not collected centrally at primary care trust level.

The Cancer Drugs Fund was launched on 1 April 2011 to help thousands of cancer patients access the drugs their clinicians believe will help them. We made an additional £50 million available to strategic health authorities in 2010-11 which has already helped over 2,400 patients in England to access the cancer drugs their clinicians recommended.

Information on the use of the interim funding by each strategic health authority will be made available when confirmed.

Chiropody: Health Hazards

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* local authority area contracted an infection in the course of receiving a pedicure in each of the last 10 years; and how many persons died as a consequence. [62086]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not available.

Cystic Fibrosis: Research

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to support gene therapy research for cystic fibrosis; [61995]

(2) what consideration he has given to the merits of funding the UK Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Consortium trials. [61997]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is providing funding for the work of the UK Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Consortium, including investment through the Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit at Imperial College and the NIHR Clinical Research Network.

The Department supports the development of innovative technology in all types of genetic and genomic research, including cystic fibrosis, that it believes will bring health benefits to national health service patients. It set up the Human Genomics Strategy Group to monitor developments and technological advances in genetic and genomic research and to provide advice on the potential health care benefits.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62069]

Mr Simon Burns: The special advisers at the Department have claimed no expenses in the last 12 months, although of course there has been some expenditure incurred on their behalf, for example on travel. There are no unpaid special advisers employed by the Department.

Depression

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* rate of diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of those with depression by primary care professionals; and if he will make a statement [62166]

Paul Burstow: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Programme has created online guides for general practitioners (GPs) to help them better diagnose depression and anxiety disorders. These guides were developed with the Royal College of GPs and are currently available on the college's website.

Also, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published a guideline, "Common Mental

Health Disorders: Identification and Pathways to Care", a copy of which has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG123

which includes advice on the diagnosis and treatment of depression.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has assessed the accuracy of data on the prevalence of depression contained in the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [62183]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts are currently responsible for verifying evidence for Quality and Outcomes Framework achievement. As part of this process, they should analyse recorded prevalence and compare the reported prevalence on disease registers with the expected prevalence of depression in the local population.

Depression: Kent

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with depression in *(a)* Chatham and Aylesford constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [62116]

Paul Burstow: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the numbers of people with a diagnosis of depression in England, the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA), Medway Primary Care Trust (PCT) and West Kent PCT.

Total number of people on general practitioner (GP) lists who are aged 18+ with a diagnosis of depression

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	
	Number	Number	Number	Percentage
England	4,112,548	4,373,974	4,648,287	10.9
South East Coast SHA	311,499	346,409	374,005	10.5
Medway PCT	10,158	14,329	17,807	8.3
West Kent PCT	37,562	44,940	48,534	8.9

These figures refer to patients aged 18+ on GP practice lists who are diagnosed with depression. Figures are taken from Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) registers. Depression was introduced to the QOF in 2006-07, and depression registers have been published by the NHS Information Centre since 2007-08. QOF depression registers were presented in 2009-10 for the first time as percentages of estimated numbers of people aged 18+ on GP lists. Source QOF data do not include the number of patients aged 18+ on GP lists, only total lists sizes, hence the need for estimates.

Health

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate responsibility deals; [62018]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of *(a)* establishing, *(b)* implementing, *(c)* monitoring and *(d)* evaluating food and drink responsibility deals. [62019]

Anne Milton: Partner organisation progress on the Public Health Responsibility Deal's pledges will be monitored through a combination of self-reporting and annual updates to the Department and may include monitoring by third parties. The exact approach taken to monitoring will vary according to the nature of the pledges.

The Department's Policy Research Programme is currently investigating the feasibility of an independent evaluation of some elements of the Responsibility Deal. Up to £1 million may be available for this work.

All administration costs incurred by the Department in facilitating the Public Health Responsibility Deal are met from existing budgets.

Implementation of the Public Health Responsibility Deal pledges will be carried out by partner organisations and the costs of doing this will be incurred by these organisations.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government plans to respond to the consultation contained in the Public Health White Paper. [62021]

Anne Milton: We intend to publish the Government's response to the public health consultations shortly.

Health Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each company involved in funding his Department's Change4Life initiative; how much his Department expects to receive in such funding; and what assessment his Department makes of companies funding its campaign prior to the provision of funding. [62029]

Anne Milton: No partners provide direct funding for the Change4Life campaign, but they do contribute in-kind support through centrally or locally-led activity, reinforcing Change4Life behaviour messages.

The Change4Life campaign has over 200 national and 50,000 local supporters from the commercial, charity and public sectors. All national partners agree in writing to the campaign terms of engagement, in order to use the Change4Life brand assets and/or campaign tools. All partners must submit applications for any activity they wish to run, and all activity requires clearance in advance from the Department.

Health Education: Marketing

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on his Department's social marketing strategy entitled Changing Behaviour, Improving Outcomes; and how much has been allocated for expenditure on this programme. [61902]

Anne Milton: A total of £44 million has been allocated for this activity, divided between four key programmes: youth, Change4Life, older people and tobacco. Detailed plans for the delivery of these four programmes are being submitted to the Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group as is our usual practice.

Hepatitis

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each socio-economic group have received treatment for hepatitis C in the last five years; [62007]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* under 15, *(b)* between 15 and 59 and *(c)* over 59 years in each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) parliamentary constituency received active treatment for hepatitis C in each year since 1997. [62012]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

	Estimated number of patients treated for hepatitis C in England, 2004-09
2004	989 to 3,867
2005	1,053 to 3,832
2006	3,362
2007	4,087
2008	4,970
2009	5,488

Notes:
1. The estimates are based on financial data supplied by Intercontinental Medical Statistics for each year between 2004 and 2009.
2. Data for 2004 and 2005 are provided as a range because both treatment with a single drug or two drugs were in use.
3. There are no data available on patients' socio-economic group.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the prevalence of hepatitis C in people aged *(a)* under 15, *(b)* 15 to 59 and *(c)* over 59 years in each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [62009]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such estimates as are currently available from the Health Protection Agency are shown in the following table.

Numbers of individuals aged 15-59 estimated to be hepatitis C antibody positive in England in 2005, divided by three regions

	Number
London	39,000
North West	42,000
Rest of England	102,000
Total	203,000

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each socio-economic group have been diagnosed with hepatitis C in the last five years. [62010]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Hepatitis C Laboratory Reports by Sex, England and Wales, 2005-09

	Male	*Female*
2005	4,310	2,053
2006	4,836	2,262
2007	5,484	2,442
2008	5,742	2,694
2009	5,986	2,744
Total	26,358	12,195

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 15, *(b)* between 15 and 59 and *(c)* over 59 years in each (i) strategic health authority, (ii) primary care trust and (iii) parliamentary constituency were diagnosed with hepatitis C in each year since 1997. [62011]

Anne Milton: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Hepatitis C laboratory reports (age specific), England by region and year, 1997-2009

	Under 15 years													
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
East Midlands	7	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	5	9	15	52
Eastern	2	15	3	6	1	6	8	10	6	6	11	17	18	109
London	12	5	10	7	7	48	68	9	4	6	13	31	32	252
North East	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	5	6	20
North West	2	4	2	6	6	10	39	41	26	17	15	25	21	214
South East	33	14	3	12	3	13	6	9	11	8	11	10	12	145
South West	0	1	4	5	9	20	17	11	8	12	21	9	7	124
West Midlands	3	1	1	4	9	19	21	19	9	16	5	4	10	121
Yorkshire and the Humber	4	0	2	3	0	4	2	4	4	14	11	8	12	68
Total	63	41	27	44	38	125	164	104	72	84	92	118	133	1,105

	15 to 59 years													
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
East Midlands	162	165	185	173	143	223	308	368	455	263	375	594	555	3,969
Eastern	336	473	506	502	388	317	381	478	549	586	575	621	549	6,261
London	221	291	257	234	275	241	296	673	737	1,053	906	822	739	6,745
North East	34	55	104	119	102	130	215	220	265	233	132	157	252	2,018
North West	95	590	985	831	1,008	1,320	1,872	1,725	1,410	1,294	1,647	1,570	2,087	16,434

	15 to 59 years													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
South East	586	844	744	550	531	493	456	378	293	359	763	1,018	1,050	8,065
South West	435	414	664	794	664	806	660	894	654	824	972	1,047	940	9,768
West Midlands	178	458	531	532	476	568	437	468	504	455	577	637	796	6,617
Yorkshire and the Humber	147	133	224	376	219	294	459	568	996	1,416	1,299	1,275	1,027	8,433
Total	2,194	3,423	4,200	4,111	3,806	4,392	5,084	5,772	5,863	6,483	7,246	7,741	7,995	68,310

	60 years or above													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
East Midlands	14	16	11	15	7	16	15	15	15	15	22	31	29	221
Eastern	36	58	56	45	43	30	25	34	34	31	38	45	39	514
London	24	39	33	24	37	43	33	67	70	138	104	122	91	825
North East	6	3	7	11	11	5	14	20	18	10	7	5	8	125
North West	13	37	70	61	55	53	90	85	68	56	80	76	77	821
South East	45	73	54	39	35	24	33	20	19	22	51	73	73	561
South West	48	34	46	56	53	29	32	34	27	35	52	64	54	564
West Midlands	48	99	110	81	74	83	65	76	80	43	51	66	70	948
Yorkshire and the Humber	6	9	11	14	17	8	16	16	32	45	70	41	55	340
Total	240	368	398	346	332	291	323	367	363	397	475	523	496	4,919

Note:
Information on hepatitis C diagnoses is only currently available down to regional level.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Hepatitis: Mortality Rates

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on the *(a)* incidence of and *(b)* mortality rates from hepatitis C in England; and if he will make a statement. [62008]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) does not routinely collect data on the incidence of hepatitis C because cases are difficult to detect, as they usually occur without symptoms, and there are no reliable laboratory assays to identify them.

The HPA analyses mortality data collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to monitor the number of deaths coded both to hepatitis C and to end-stage liver disease or hepatocellular carcinoma. As these data are likely to be subject to some under-ascertainment (due to incomplete coding), the HPA estimates mortality from hepatitis C related liver disease using both ONS death registrations and Hospital Episode Statistics data. This information is shown in the following tables:

ONS registered deaths from hepatitis C related end stage liver disease or hepatocellular cancer, England, 2005-09	
2005	187
2006	195
2007	227
2008	237
2009	273

HPA estimated deaths from hepatitis C related end stage liver disease or hepatocellular carcinoma	
2005	446
2006	488
2007	530
2008	575
2009	620

Hospitals: Attendance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of missed appointments in each of the last five years; [61985]

(2) if he will introduce financial penalties for missing NHS appointments. [61986]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimates have been made centrally of the cost to the national health service of missed appointments. The financial cost of "did not attends" is notoriously difficult to calculate as NHS staff can use missed appointment time productively, seeing other patients; catching up on 'paperwork' or spending time on personal development and training.

Across the NHS, organisations should be seeking to understand and address how best to achieve reductions in their areas. The introduction of new technologies that allow patients to book and cancel appointments on-line, combined with improved telecommunication systems with the use of SMS texts, email and appointment reminder systems can all help to reduce missed appointments. We believe that encouraging patients to use the NHS sensibly and responsibly is the right approach; and have no plans for imposing financial penalties on patients.

Hospitals: Safety

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on safety and control measures in respect of patients and their visitors in each hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [62697]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested on how much the national health service spent on safety and control measures in respect of patients and their visitors in each hospital is not available.

Learning Disability

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the provision of services for people with a learning disability who develop dementia in later life; and what plans he has for provision of support to families and carers of older people who have a learning disability; [61877]

(2) what plans he has for future support of the ageing population of people with a learning disability; and what assessment his Department has made of trends in the life expectancy of people with a learning disability. [61878]

Paul Burstow: The Department is committed to improving services for all people with dementia including those with learning disabilities. They should be helped to live well with dementia, no matter what the stage of their illness or where they are in the health and social care system.

A revised outcomes focused Implementation Plan for the National Dementia Strategy was launched in September 2010, and this has a greater focus on local delivery and accountability in four key areas:

good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all;

improved quality of care in general hospitals;

living well with dementia in care homes; and

reduced use of antipsychotic medication.

In the updated Carers Strategy, 'Recognised, valued and supported: Next steps for the Carers Strategy', we announced additional funding of £400 million to the national health service between 2011 and 2015 to enable more carers including those caring for people with learning disabilities to take breaks from their caring responsibilities.

From 1 April, the Government have made £150 million available for re-ablement and £650 million for social care spend for front line services. This money will help people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital.

The Department has not conducted analyses of trends in life expectancy of people with learning disabilities, in our analyses of demographic pressures on services for learning disabilities. However we do take account of expected future rises in the numbers of people with learning disabilities as projected by the Centre for Disability Research at the university of Lancaster.

Leukaemia: Drugs

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the approach of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to the funding of drugs for people diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukaemia. [61879]

Paul Burstow: Since May 2010, we have received around 300 representations, including the hon. Member's question, regarding the ongoing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal of dasatinib, high-dose imatinib and nilotinib for the treatment of imatinib-resistant chronic myeloid leukaemia.

NICE'S consultation on its draft guidance closed on 27 May, and NICE will now consider the comments received before publishing its final guidance later in the year.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many multiple sclerosis specialist nurses are employed by the NHS; [62035]

(2) how many people *(a)* have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and *(b)* are receiving NHS care for this condition; [62036]

(3) whether his Department issues guidance on the maximum patient case load number for which a multiple sclerosis specialist nurse should be responsible; [62037]

(4) what plans his Department has for future numbers of multiple sclerosis specialist nurses in the NHS; [62038]

(5) which health service organisations will be responsible for the commissioning of hospital and community based specialist services for people with multiple sclerosis under the new organisational structures to be implemented in the national health service; [62039]

(6) what his policy is on the future of multiple sclerosis specialist nurses in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [62040]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of multiple sclerosis specialist nurses employed by the national health service is not collected centrally,

Information on the number of people diagnosed and receiving care for multiple sclerosis is not collected.

The Department does not issue guidance on the maximum patient case load number for which multiple sclerosis specialist nurses should be responsible.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to decide on the most appropriate work force levels, including specialist nursing posts, for their local population.

It is proposed that clinical commissioning groups will have responsibility for the commissioning of services, including specialist nurses, to meet the health needs of those living with multiple sclerosis.

Multiple Sclerosis: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts funding Sativex in the latest period for which figures are available. [62292]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on primary care trust funding policies on Sativex is not held centrally.

For information on the number of prescription items for Sativex (including prescriptions written generically) that were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Ipswich (Ben Gummer) on 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 646W.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 84W, on multiple sclerosis, whether he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to produce any guidance on the use of Sativex. [62380]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) announced on 22 June 2011 that it plans to update its clinical guideline on multiple sclerosis, Sativex is one of the new interventions which NICE has identified for inclusion in its updated guideline.

NHS: Competition

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the future of the *(a)* principles and rules for co-operation and competition and *(b)* Co-operation and Competition Panel in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [62783]

Mr Simon Burns: To emphasise the evolutionary nature of our approach to competition we are retaining the existing Principles and Rules for Co-operation and Competition—which reflect the principles of procurement and competition law—and the Co-operation and Competition Panel that advises on their application, as a body with a distinct identity within Monitor.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect on *(a)* competition, *(b)* the role of the private sector and *(c)* the retention of experienced managers in the NHS of the proposed changes to his NHS reform proposals following the report of the NHS Future Forum. [62784]

Mr Simon Burns: Following the Future Forum's recommendations, the Government's response makes clear that the role of competition in the national health service must be as a means to improving services for patients, 'never an end in itself' and as a result of the changes we have proposed, Monitor would not have a duty to promote competition.

The Government are committed to giving patients greater choice and creating a level playing field, in which the best providers flourish, whether from the public, voluntary or private sector. We will make sure that what matters is the quality of care provided, not who owns the organisation providing it. As a result of the changes we have proposed, Monitor, the NHS Commissioning Board and the Secretary of State for Health would not be able to exercise their functions for the purpose of increasing the market shares of private providers.

The Government response to the Future Forum's recommendations also confirmed that we will ensure high quality management is valued across the NHS, with a commitment to retaining the best talent across primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

NHS: Standards

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has conducted research on levels of confidence among NHS staff in the adequacy of future care to be delivered by the NHS. [62782]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no current plans to conduct specific research with national health service staff into their views about the adequacy of future care to be delivered in the NHS.

However, the Department recognises that measuring and acting on staff experience information is an important factor in delivering improvements for staff and in turn patients.

Information concerning a wide range of staff opinions on their work and workplaces is collected annually through the NHS staff survey, with data received and analysed from around 120,000 respondents nationally every year.

The NHS staff survey is well established within the annual activities of the NHS and is recognised as the key source for robust staff feedback information.

Prescription Drugs: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the reviews on addiction to prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medicines conducted by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and the National Addiction Centre; and how much was paid to each organisation. [62097]

Anne Milton: The contract to produce the literature review on addiction to medicines was granted following a competitive bidding process. We will therefore not be releasing information on the cost of the report, commissioned from the National Addictions Centre on grounds of commercial confidentiality.

The Department transferred funds to the National Treatment Agency (NTA) for their report "Addiction to Medicines—An investigation into the configuration and commissioning of treatment services to support those who develop problems with prescription only or over-the-counter medicine". The NTA has spent £66,000 on producing their report.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations his Department considered to review addiction to prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medicines prior to commissioning the National Addiction Centre and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse to complete this work. [62098]

Anne Milton: Three organisations submitted formal bids to undertake the literature review on addiction to medicines. The Department will not be releasing the names of these organisations due to commercial confidentiality.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons *(a)* patient groups and *(b)* charitable and not-for-profit groups were not consulted as part of the recent reviews on addiction to prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medicines conducted by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and the National Addiction Centre. [62099]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I gave on 11 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 38WS.

I will be leading work to involve relevant organisations and interested individuals to discuss the future action that is necessary in the light of the information contained in the reports. I look forward to discussions with Members of both Houses who have shown a long interest in this important area.

Prescription Drugs: Waste Management

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the amount of medicine which is wasted. [61987]

Mr Simon Burns: Following research into the scale, causes and cost of waste medicines in England, the Department and key interested parties took part in a round table event hosted by the King's Fund on 20 January 2011 to discuss possible actions that could be taken forward either nationally or locally.

There was agreement among all who attended that medicines wastage is a serious issue for the national health service and that action must be taken to tackle avoidable wastage of medicines as well as optimising medicines use to improve health outcomes. We will continue to work with the interested parties on this issue.

The report of the event will be published shortly.

Psychiatry

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effect of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on psychotherapy on the provision on the NHS of the full range of psychotherapies for patients; and if he will make a statement. [62022]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body and does not make recommendations based on Government policy, but on evidence. NICE has not produced guidelines on psychotherapy. Guidelines are produced on a range of conditions for which certain types of psychotherapy may be appropriate, and they recommend such treatments according to the evidence.

NICE'S clinical guidelines represent best practice and are based on the best available evidence and developed through wide consultation. They relate to a whole pathway of care and can make a large number of recommendations spanning all stages of care from diagnosis to treatment of a condition.

In view of their complexity and because of the different states of readiness for implementation in the national health service, clinical guidelines are not subject to the same statutory funding direction as NICE'S technology appraisals.

Sex: Health Education

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's Sex, Worth Talking About campaign material will be available for use locally. [61901]

Anne Milton: The Department's Sex, Worth Talking About campaign ran from November 2009 to the end of March 2010. The materials from the campaign have been available since April 2011 for local areas to use should they wish to and can be obtained from the NHS Choices Sexual Health Professional web pages, together with a guide on how the materials can be used. These can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/sexualhealthprofessional/Pages/campaign-resources.aspx

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government plans to issue a sexual health strategy. [62020]

Anne Milton: The Department plans to publish a sexual health policy document later this year.

Varicose Veins: Medical Treatments

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of NHS treatment for varicose veins; and if he will make a statement. [61916]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers have made no assessment of the availability of national health service treatment for varicose veins. It is for local commissioners, in consultation with patients and the general public, to commission services that will best meet the needs of their population within the resources available to them. In doing so, they will wish to take account of available professional guidance on the clinical and cost effectiveness of particular procedures.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 29 June 2011

TRANSPORT

A1: Speed Limits

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a 50 mph speed limit has been imposed via temporary speed limit signs on the A1 southbound north of Alwalton. [62412]

Mike Penning: A temporary 50 mph speed limit has been put in place on the A1 southbound just north of Alwalton for a distance of approximately one mile. It is necessary to mitigate a risk relating to the integrity of the central reserve safety fencing which no longer reaches acceptable performance standards.

Biofuels

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what countries the UK imported biofuel from in the last year for which information is available; [59469]

(2) if he will estimate the effect on the level of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the production of biofuel in the UK; [59470]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of biofuel production on *(a)* food prices and *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions in the UK; [59471]

(4) what estimate he has made of the amount of land expected to be used for biofuel production in the UK in the next five years. [59472]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* The Renewable Fuels Agency's second annual report to Parliament on the impacts of the renewable transport fuels obligation (RTFO) is available at:

http://www.renewablefuelsagency.gov.uk/sites/rfa/files/Year_Two_RTFO_v2.pdf

This report covers the period April 2009 to April 2010 and includes verified data of biofuel supplied in the UK by country of origin and land use, where known, and reports the performance of biofuels supplied in the UK in respect of annual greenhouse gas emissions savings. No estimate is made of the amount of land expected to be used for biofuel production in the UK in the next five years.

The RTFO unit in the Department for Transport now administers the RTFO. The RTFO unit produces statistics on biofuels containing unverified data related to biofuel performance which are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/biofuels/

The renewable energy directive (RED) requires the UK to ensure that 10% of energy consumed in transport comes from renewable sources by 2020 and that biofuels used towards this target meet a number of mandatory sustainability criteria. These include that biofuels must deliver a greenhouse gas saving of at least 35%, rising to 50% in 2017 and to 60% for biofuels from new plants, in 2018.

In January this year, as required by the RED, my Department provided a report on the regional level estimates of greenhouse gas emissions arising from cultivation of biofuels feedstocks in the UK. The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/renewable-fuels/biofuelscultivation/

In January this year a report prepared by a cross-Whitehall group of officials (the Global Food Markets Group) entitled "Agricultural price spikes 2007/2008: Causes and policy implications" was published. The report considered the causes of the 2008 food price spike and concluded that biofuels were not a particularly significant driver, with other factors such as the price of oil and adverse weather conditions being greater contributors. It is archived at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/security/price.htm

Under the RED, the European Commission must monitor and report every two years on the impact of biofuel policy and increased demand for biofuel on social sustainability. This will include reporting on the availability of foodstuffs at affordable prices.

First Capital Connect

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the train failure incident involving a First Capital Connect service near Kentish Town on the evening of 26 May 2011. [61884]

Norman Baker: I have received one piece of correspondence and the Department for Transport has received two pieces of correspondence from members of the public concerning the incident near Kentish Town on 26 May.

An investigation is currently underway by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch into the incidents that led to the failure of the train service. I have asked to see a copy of their report.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Scotland

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of each Maritime and Coastguard Agency property in Scotland. [62142]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) occupies 115 properties and maintains 48 radio sites in Scotland, some of which we own. The total value of these is £7.5 million.

This is based on the net book values for properties on our balance sheet as at 31 March 2011 and is based on either a depreciated replacement cost or an existing use value, whichever is the more appropriate. These values are updated annually and will differ from market values.

I have arranged for this information to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will include hydrogen in the renewable transport fuel obligation; and if he will make a statement. [62619]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The renewable energy directive (RED) requires member states to source 10% of the energy use in transport from renewable sources by 2020. While the RED does allow for the use of renewable hydrogen to meet this target, there is not currently a methodology in place for calculating the contribution of hydrogen from renewable sources. However, the directive does require the European Commission to come forward with a proposal for such a method by 31 December 2011.

The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) requires fossil fuel suppliers to supply a certain percentage of the total volume of fuel they supply as biofuel. We are currently considering responses to our "Consultation on the implementation of the transport elements of the Renewable Energy Directive" and intend to publish a summary of responses to that public consultation shortly. In that consultation paper we did not propose any amendment to the RTFO to allow renewable hydrogen to be eligible for renewable transport fuel certificates but proposed to keep this issue under review as the European Commission develops a methodology to account for renewable hydrogen.

Trade Unions

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Esher and Walton of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on trade unions, how many people were employed in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(c)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(d)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency, *(e)* the Highways Agency, *(f)* the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, *(g)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(h)* the Vehicles Certification Agency in 2010-11; and what proportion of the workforce in each case were (i) full-time and (ii) part-time trade union representatives. [62664]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The number of those employed within the central Department and its seven Executive agencies and the proportion of the work force that were (i) full-time and (ii) part-time trade union representatives are given in the following table:

	Headcount 2010-11	*Proportion of full-time representatives (percentage)*	*Proportion of part-time representatives (percentage)*
DFT	2,160	0.14	0.79
MCA	1,147	0.09	3.23
VCA	155	0.00	4.52
HA	3,907	0.05	2.38
DSA	2,607	0.15	1.73
VOSA	2,294	0.13	1.35
DVLA	6,582	0.12	0.56
GCDA	285	0.00	2.46

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 885, on affordable housing, how many affordable homes were completed in communities of fewer than 3,000 in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [62227]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows the number of affordable homes completed in rural areas with a population of less than 3,000 through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme in 2008-09 and 2009-10:

Completion year	*Social rent*	*Low cost home ownership*	*Total*
2008-09	1,726	689	2,415
2009-10	2,205	671	2,876

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System

Affordable Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effects of the FirstBuy scheme on the private sector housing market in Peterborough constituency; and if he will make a statement. [61775]

Andrew Stunell: FirstBuy is designed to maintain capacity in the housebuilding industry in the short-term while assisting nearly 10,500 first time buyers, who are struggling with a deposit, to realise their home ownership aspirations.

The scheme will help maintain confidence in the housing market as house builders will be able to build new homes knowing that first time buyers will be able to purchase these properties. This confidence will attract further investment in house building.

An individual assessment of the effects of FirstBuy on specific local housing markets has not been undertaken. However, identified sites which met local authority priorities scored more highly when developer offers were considered by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Affordable Housing: Wirral

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Wirral South of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 491W, on affordable housing: Wirral South, how many new affordable homes were provided in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how many of those were for social rent in each year. [62434]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics on the number of additional affordable homes delivered in each local authority can be found on the Department for Communities and Local Government's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

The following table presents figures for total additional supply (new build and acquisitions) of affordable housing for Wirral local authority:

	2008-09	2009-10
Total additional affordable homes	80	190
Of which:		
For social rent	60	140

Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest 10.
Source:
DCLG official statistics on gross additional affordable supply (Live Table 1006 and 1008), compiled from HCA and other data sources.

Audit Commission

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 663W, on the Audit Commission, what the business case was for the expenditure by the Commission of the Board on a dinner at Bentley's Seafood Restaurant. [61765]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

The expenditure was incurred under the last Administration. Ministers in this Government do not consider such practices to be a good use of taxpayers' money.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 29 June 2011:

The Audit Commission Board held dinners on the evening before some Board meetings, to allow Commissioners a slightly less formal opportunity for discussion and debate. A review of the Board's effectiveness, required under our Corporate Governance Framework, confirmed that these were valuable and should continue. On occasion, executive staff, and DCLG colleagues, also attended.

The dinner at Bentley's Seafood Restaurant, on 3 March 2010, was one such dinner.

Eco-towns

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Leicester East of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 53W, on eco-towns, how many homes were built in eco-towns up to April 2010; and what proportion of dwellings were *(a)* affordable housing, *(b)* social rent and *(c)* low-cost home ownership. [62228]

Grant Shapps: There were no homes built before April 2010 in eco-towns. In my statement of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 7-9WS, I set out our commitment to zero carbon development, and from 2016 all new homes going through the planning system will be required to be built to a zero carbon standard, and all new non-domestic buildings from 2019.

EU Grants and Loans

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements his Department has made to process European regional development fund expenditure from 1 July 2011. [60266]

Robert Neill: The current European regional development fund teams in the regional development agencies are transferring to my Department to ensure that existing experience and knowledge is not lost. These teams will continue to manage the day to day operation of the fund and a process is in place to ensure that payments to projects can be made from DCLG from 1 July.

These new arrangements will also allow the Government to address better the financial irregularities in the administration of the programme that we have inherited from the last Government—as outlined in my Department's press release of 7 July 2010.

Fair Play Campaign

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from the Fair Play Campaign; what issues were discussed; what response he gave to the representations; and if he will make a statement. [62004]

Andrew Stunell: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) and I have not met or had any direct discussions or received any representations from the Fair Play Campaign Group but we meet regularly with the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council under whose auspices the campaign operates.

Housing

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Crosby of 20 May 2008, *Official Report,* column 266W, on housing, what the change in the number of homeowners was in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [62435]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Communities and Local Government's English Housing Survey estimates that in 2009-10 there were 14,525,000 owner-occupied households in England, down by 97,000 from 2008-09 when there were 14,621,000.

These figures, together with other results from the 2009-10 English Housing Survey can be found in the latest Headline Report on the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/ehs200910headlinereport

Housing: Sales

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the proportion of home sales *(a)* to first-time buyers and *(b)* all buyers in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) each region that were made to people who were not resident in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [61717]

Andrew Stunell: The Council of Mortgage Lenders publish data on the number of first time buyers buying a home with a mortgage in the UK, but not for geographies below national level.

The latest data can be found at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2938

The Department is not aware of figures which estimate the residential property sales made to people who are not resident in the UK.

Mayors

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which cities or towns, other than the 12 largest cities in England, his Department has received expressions of interest in introducing directly-elected mayors. [56669]

Robert Neill: We have not invited expressions of interest from other local authorities.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the contribution to the Exchequer from the empty property rate regime was in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the contribution to the Exchequer in each of the next five years. [61562]

Robert Neill: Data on the national non-domestic rates revenue raised from empty properties are not held centrally.

Data on the amount of empty property relief granted in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the amount forecast to be granted in 2010-11 and 2011-12 are as follows:

Table 1: Empty property rate relief since 2008-09

	£ million
	Empty property relief
2008-09	487.0
2009-10	1,117.9
2010-11(B)	907.8
2011-12(B)	757.3

Blank rows indicate discontinuity.

Note:

Data are as reported to Communities and Local Government by all billing authorities in England on the annual national non-domestic rates returns.

Source:

Data for 2008-09 to 2009-10 are outturn figures; (B) those for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are budget estimates.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 8 February 2011, *Official Report* column 178W.

Public Order Offences: Bye Laws

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from local authorities on the introduction of a byelaw relating to spitting in public spaces; what consideration he has given to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [62334]

Robert Neill: While the Department has recently received correspondence on this issue, the Department has not received any byelaw applications from local authorities in the last three years relating to spitting.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his policy is on permitted development rights for air source heat pumps; [62742]

(2) what his policy is on permitted development rights for onshore wind turbines. [62743]

Robert Neill: My Department is committed to amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to introduce permitted development rights for air source heat pumps and onshore wind turbines on domestic properties, and to report to Parliament on doing the same for non-domestic premises, as part of our agenda to support renewable energy and low carbon technologies.

SCOTLAND

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62718]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not awarded any contracts to Capita since May 2010.

Child Maintenance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has discussed the potential effects in Scotland of proposals to change child support schemes with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. [62820]

Michael Moore: Across Government we are working to ensure that the Scottish Government are consulted as appropriate.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Scottish Government, *(b)* the Convention of Scottish local authorities and *(c)* civic society organisations in Scotland on proposals to change child support schemes; on what dates such discussions took place; and whether it took place orally or in writing in each case. [62821]

Michael Moore: The Department for Work and Pensions leads on this matter, and received a number of responses from a range of Scottish organisations during its recent Green paper consultation which have been shared with the Scotland Office. Across Government we will continue to work with the Scottish Government to take forward the Government's plans for reform of child maintenance in Britain.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many invoices received by his Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62481]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office aims to pay invoices within five days of receipt. During the period 1 May 2010 to 31 May 2011, the following targets were met:

	Paid within five days			
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number of invoices paid late*	*Monetary value of late payments (£)*
May 2010	80	94.1	5	1,604.64
June 2010	102	99	1	285.52
July 2010	104	98.1	2	63.18
August 2010	87	100	0	0
September 2010	85	98.8	1	528.75
October 2010	88	100	0	0
November 2010	87	98.9	1	£244.40
December 2010	122	98.4	2	1,581.16
January 2011	74	98.7	1	900
February 2011	67	100	0	0
March 2011	129	99.2	1	4,582.67
April 2011	93	100	0	0
May 2011	57	98.3	1	60

However, 100% of invoices received during this period were paid within the contractual 30-day term.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Allowances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, (1) what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the effectiveness of its schemes in restoring public confidence and trust in *(a)* hon. Members first elected in May 2010, *(b)* other hon. Members and *(c)* Parliament; [62444]

(2) whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made an assessment of the extent to which hon. Members are funding their parliamentary duties from personal resources; [62445]

(3) what proportion of the savings to the public purse achieved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in its first 10 months of operation is attributable to *(a)* resettlement grants, *(b)* parliamentary pensions, *(c)* winding-up allowances and *(d)* other exceptional payments made to retiring hon. Members in the final year of the previous House of Commons scheme; [62446]

(4) what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the likely level of savings to the public purse it will achieve in respect of the salaries, staffing and expenses budgets of hon. Members in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11; [62447]

(5) whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made an assessment of the effects of its schemes on the mental health and well-being of hon. Members. [62448]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to these questions by the named day. Answers will be provided as soon as possible.

Operating Costs

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has reached a decision on the Authority's proposed estimate for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [62240]

Mr Charles Walker: The Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority completed its consideration of IPSA's draft estimate 2011-12 on 22 June 2011.

The Committee was not satisfied that the estimate was consistent with the efficient and cost-effective discharge by IPSA of its functions. The Committee accordingly modified the estimate, as required by statute, to achieve that consistency through the creation of an Unallocated Provision.

The modified estimate, together with a statement by the Committee under schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (HC 1337) was laid before the House on 23 June 2011.

Telephone Tapping

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the policy of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is on the recording of telephone calls. [60935]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the policy is of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority on the recording of telephone calls.

Our policy is that we reserve the right to record incoming and outgoing telephone calls for training and quality purposes. This policy is stated on our website.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, for how long the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority retains recordings of telephone calls; who is authorised to listen to such recordings; and what arrangements are in place for destroying the recordings. [60936]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for how long the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority retains recordings of telephone calls; who is authorised to listen to such recordings; and what arrangements are in place for destroying the recordings.

Telephone voice recordings are subject to IPSA's Information Management records retention and disposition schedules which specify the period for which they are held. The current policy states that electronic files, which cover telephone recordings, will be retained for a period of six years. When the agreed retention period expires, electronic files will be reviewed and either retained for a further period, if still required for business purposes, or destroyed. The Information Management policy is currently under review and the retention period may change.

The following members of IPSA's staff are authorised to listen to telephone voice recordings in order both to monitor quality standards and to identify training needs:

the Deputy Director of Operations;

the two Team Leaders of the Information Team; and

the Head of Assurance and Review.

Additionally, members of IPSA's senior management can request access to specific voice recordings if there is a business requirement for them to do so.

Destruction of voice recordings will be conducted using either secure data erasure using a CESG's Assisted Products Service (CAPS) product if the media is to be disposed of, or by reformatting and overwriting in accordance with the HMG Base Line Standard if the media is to be reused.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 304-5W, on the electoral register, what assessment has been made of the progress of the Electoral Commission in improving its reporting process on electoral registration; and if he will make a statement. [61641]

Mr Streeter: The Comptroller and Auditor General reported in March 2011 on the Electoral Commission's spending to support the running of elections, including registration. The report was published as the Committee's First Report 2011, "Reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General", HC 916 (2010-12). It is available via the Committee's webpage:

www.parliament.uk/scec

WORK AND PENSIONS

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62714]

Chris Grayling: The Department has awarded one contract to Capita, Consulting for the Extending Working Life—National Guidance Initiative since May 2010. The total contract value is £1.5 million over a two year period.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61726]

Chris Grayling: The potential costs of staff early releases in the Department's businesses and non-departmental public bodies will mainly be funded centrally and within the limits of the spending review settlement. Specific requirements and potential costs for staff early releases are subject to review and are part of the departmental planning process.

As part of the approvals process all staff early releases are supported by business cases to ensure efficient work force management, cost control and value for money.

The Department has not made any separate provision to fund staff early releases from non-departmental public bodies. However, some arm's length bodies including those in receipt of grant in aid funding will have separate arrangements for meeting from their own budgets, the cost of any early releases.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his proposed changes to the payment of mobility allowance on transport services paid for and used communally by groups living in residential homes. [62710]

Maria Miller: We have made it clear that we will not remove the DLA mobility component from people in residential care from October 2012 and that we would review the existing evidence and gather more to enable us to determine the extent to which there are overlaps in provision for mobility needs of people in residential care homes.

Any changes to the mobility component for people living in care homes will be made as part of the wider reform of disability living allowance and its replacement with the personal independence payment in 2013. We will ensure that when we introduce the personal independence payment from April 2013 it treats disabled people fairly, regardless of their place of residence, reducing overlaps of public spending and not disabled people's ability to get out and about.

Work Capability Assessment

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 824W, on Work Capability Assessment: mental health, what estimate he has made of the average cost of a tribunal appeal against a fitness to work decision for a new employment and support allowance claim where the primary condition was classed as a mental or behavioural disorder in the latest period for which figures are available. [62761]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The average cost for Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (formerly the Tribunals Service) of a completed appeal in the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support based on national 2009-10 data is £282.

Benefit specific calculations are not available because of the high degree of apportionment of costs which would be required.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 824W, on Work Capability Assessment: mental health, what steps his Department is taking to improve the accuracy of fit for work decisions for employment and support allowance claims where the primary condition is classified as a mental or behavioural disorder; and if he will make a statement. [62762]

Chris Grayling: The Work Capability Assessment (WCA) was developed in consultation with medical and other experts alongside specialist disability groups. A department led review of the Work Capability Assessment recommended a number of changes to the WCA. These came into force on 28 March 2011 and are expected to more accurately assess mental, intellectual and cognitive function with a corresponding small increase in support group numbers.

Recognising that particular concerns have been raised in relation to how the WCA works for people with mental health conditions, Professor Harrington has asked leading charities, including Mind, Mencap and the National Autistic Society, to make recommendations to refine the mental, intellectual and cognitive descriptors used in the WCA as part of his second independent review.

Additionally, in response to one of Professor Harrington's recommendations in his first review, we have introduced mental, cognitive and intellectual 'champions' into Atos assessment centres to spread best practice in these areas. We are also empowering and improving training for Jobcentre Plus decision makers to put them back at the heart of this system.

We will continue to review and refine the assessment in the light of experience of its use in practice, as part of a process of continuous improvement.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Hearing Impairment

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* London who are registered as deaf are claiming jobseeker's allowance. [52135]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

RAF Honington

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the implications for the policies of the Health and Safety Executive of the time taken to investigate the accident sustained by Mr Philip Flavell while working at RAF Honington on 15 November 2006. [62676]

Chris Grayling: HSE has a publicly-accessible procedure that states how inspectors conduct and manage investigations of work-related incidents. Following initial inquiries into the incident to Mr Flavell, a decision was taken, in line with the procedure, not to investigate. There are no wider policy implications of this decision.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has been monitoring the number of fit notes issued by GPs; and if he will assess trends in the number of such notes being issued. [56154]

Chris Grayling: There is no central monitoring of the number of Statements of Fitness for Work (fit notes) issued by GPs. This is due to practical considerations as the form is entirely paper based.

The fit note is undergoing a formal evaluation which includes a quantitative study exploring trends in the issuance of fit notes in a sample of GPs. This combined with analysis of trends in general sickness absence and social security data as well as qualitative studies with samples of GPs, employers and employees will provide a fuller picture of the impact of fit notes.

PRIME MINISTER

Service Chiefs

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Prime Minister when he last met the (1) Chief of the Air Staff; and what matters were discussed; [61935]

(2) Service Chiefs together; and what matters were discussed. [61945]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others including the service chiefs.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aviation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to mitigate the effects of aviation on local air quality. [60237]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 294W, by the Minister of State, Department for Transport, the right hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Teresa Villiers).

Departmental Public Bodies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of and *(b)* budget for the public bodies outlined in the Natural Environment White Paper; and if she will make a statement. [62595]

Richard Benyon: The Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) does not lead to the creation of any new public bodies or NDPBs. Instead, it establishes a small number of time-limited activities which bring together expertise from business, civil society and the wider sector. These include the Peat Task Force, the business-led Ecosystems Markets Task Force and the Green Infrastructure Partnership.

These activities will engage key stakeholders to identify innovative and effective solutions to their respective challenges. In addition, the NEWP also announced the creation of a Natural Capital Committee to help put the value of nature at the heart of the Government's economic planning. This too will bring together a small number of leading experts in their fields to provide independent advice to Government.

To enable these activities to function, they will be supported with a small amount of resource, within the normal course of business, and in a way that achieves best value for money.

Droughts

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will take steps to ensure that gardeners and garden centres are not adversely affected by the recent shortfall of rain; [62320]

(2) if she will take steps to mitigate the potential negative effects on garden centres and the gardening industry of any continued lack of rainfall in the summer of 2011. [62321]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), has had a number of meetings with the sectors most affected by the dry weather, including representatives of the Horticultural Trades Association, to consider actions that can be taken to mitigate the impacts of the drought.

No water company restrictions are currently in place and only one water company is warning customers that it may need to introduce restrictions if the dry weather returns.

When water is in short supply the statutory framework for managing droughts is designed to protect the public water supply for essential domestic uses. Temporary restrictions on non essential uses of water can help defer or avoid the need for more stringent demand restrictions on customers and businesses and help to protect the environment. In the event of the need for restrictions, gardeners may continue to use hand held containers to water their gardens or use water that is not from the public supply, for example recycled or stored rain water.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the average income of *(a)* dairy farmers, *(b)* hill farmers, *(c)* livestock farmers and *(d)* arable farmers in each of the last 10 years. [62771]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* Farm Business Income has been the preferred measure of income since 2003-04. The estimated Farm Business Income[1] by farm type in each of the last seven years is shown in table 1. Table 2 shows Net Farm Income[2] for each of the last 10 years.

[1] Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Net Farm Income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse alone for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type-capital of the business. An imputed rent is deducted for owner-occupied farms as is a charge for other unpaid labour.

Table 1: Farm Business Income

Average £ per farm

At current prices	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cereals	49,800	29,200	29,000	45,900	73,400	69,700	46,000
General Cropping	65,900	42,400	36,900	62,200	81,000	96,000	66,000
Dairy	30,500	33,100	33,600	30,800	55,100	69,400	56,100
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	12,100	9,300	9,400	11,400	12,400	18,500	22,000
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	17,400	16,200	15,800	10,500	10,400	17,100	22,200
Specialist Pigs	36,900	25,900	30,300	24,500	6,300	59,100	71,600
Specialist Poultry	48,800	86,000	93,100	100,600	139,200	47,700	66,300
Mixed	31,100	23,900	25,800	27,200	37,300	38,600	39,800

Source:
Farm Business Survey, England

Table 2: Net Farm Income

Average £ per farm

At current prices	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cereals	7,500	5,900	13,600	36,400	15,600	14,100	31,300	37,100	52,700	27,900
General cropping	18,600	17,500	15,500	56,800	32,200	26,700	54,000	64,700	82,000	48,900
Dairy	14,000	30,900	18,200	23,600	26,400	27,100	22,900	46,700	59,200	40,500

Table 2: Net Farm Income

Average £ per farm

At current prices	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Cattle and Sheep (Lowland)	-400	-100	6,600	7,100	5,400	5,300	6,800	6,500	12,200	14,500
Cattle and Sheep (LFA)	5,900	7,400	17,400	15,000	13,400	11,800	6,100	5,000	11,900	15,600
Specialist pigs	42,100	21,600	25,700	34,400	25,100	29,000	25,000	12,400	53,500	73,000
Specialist poultry	30,300	26,700	97,100	53,200	89,700	97,500	102,600	141,400	49,800	68,900
Mixed	7,600	4,500	12,100	24,400	16,400	17,400	17,600	27,600	28,600	26,300

Note:
The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, ie a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.
Source:
Farm Business Survey, England

Land

Dr Wollaston: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has assessed the effectiveness of her Department's best and most versatile land policy. [62165]

Mr Paice: We have not recently assessed the effectiveness of the best and most versatile land policy, but my Department has commissioned a project on the policy's application by planning authorities. This will assess the spatial location and extent of best and most versatile agricultural and that has been built on and/or developed for non-agricultural purposes, in the last decade; and will evaluate the information and processes used by planners to assess BMV land issues. The report is due to be published by late summer.

Rabbits: Animal Welfare

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will consider the merits of introducing a ban on battery cages for factory-farmed rabbits. [62411]

Mr Paice: The welfare of farmed rabbits is already provided for by way of the general provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which make it an offence to cause suffering to an animal. The Act also contains a duty of care to animals. This means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to ensure the animal's welfare needs are met. In addition, the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 lays down requirements in respect of general welfare, inspection, housing and feeding for all farm animals and includes a section specifically to protect the welfare of rabbits.

One of the key welfare concerns associated with rabbit farming is space allowance and existing legislation covers this. It is a requirement that all rabbits must be kept in hutches or cages of sufficient size to allow the rabbits to move around and to feed and drink without difficulty and to allow them all to lie on their sides at the same time; and of sufficient height to allow the rabbits to sit upright on all four feet without their ears touching the top of the hutch or cage.

DEFRA has a welfare code for rabbits which provides good husbandry advice, which producers have by law to be familiar with and have access to.

Water Supply: Reservoirs

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the total reservoir capacity is of water companies in England and Wales; [62338]

(2) what the net change in the total reservoir capacity of water companies in England and Wales has been since 1989-90. [62339]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The total reservoir capacity of water companies in England and Wales is approximately 2,346,590,305 cubic metres. This figure includes reservoirs that fall under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (large raised reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000 m^3 or more above natural ground level).

Figures for 1989-90 are not available.

JUSTICE

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62720]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010 my Department has awarded 220 contracts to Capita. Of these, 219 are in the form of purchase orders raised as a consequence of my Department's decision to utilise the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) CIPHER agreement for the purchase of interim contractors in line with the Cabinet Office Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG) directive.

The individual monetary value of contracts awarded is contained in the following table.

The net worth of those contracts was £15,052,080.51.

Table 1

	£
Individual monetary value of contracts awarded to Capita	83,980.00
	106,020.00
	79,900.00
	104,400.00
	113,740.00
	18,984.00
	46,305.00
	36,687.00
	20,055.92
	17,516.80
	79,936.50
	57,560.00
	57,000.00
	57,000.00
	7,632.00
	38,522.00
	64,491.00
	19,690.00
	82,261.34
	198,118.40
	117,221.04
	115,689.60
	112,833.20
	118,496.12
	244,573.44
	179,944.00
	165,602.00
	64,886.25
	41,505.75
	63,117.16
	57,378.75
	63,117.16
	130,822.90
	71,508.62
	64,046.26
	68,854.50
	26,740.00
	111,700.00
	80,160.00
	109,250.00
	92,700.00
	106,702.08
	105,000.00
	73,920.00
	89,891.00
	76,920.00
	104,700.00
	70,240.00
	144,214.00
	128,875.00
	128,875.00
	122,744.00

Table 1

	£
	131,087.04
	138,750.00
	99,750.00
	85,976.00
	54,944.84
	123,657.80
	117,875.00
	67,244.00
	27,994.24
	57,717.95
	103,544.31
	30,340.75
	58,033.72
	120,030.50
	84,754.53
	55,699.69
	52,000.00
	775,875.00
	74,031.25
	8,085.00
	103,297.50
	42,243.00
	43,167.30
	106,095.15
	97,342.00
	100,032.50
	57,515.70
	19,427.00
	110,678.00
	43,337.05
	48,750.00
	130,422.00
	53,950.00
	39,934.00
	55,654.18
	69,335.00
	51,294.00
	49,667.50
	130,780.00
	63,326.00
	87,199.94
	73,743.30
	13,000.00
	44,452.00
	44,452.00
	92,700.00
	51,082.45
	98,495.00
	30,127.50
	52,392.88
	63,674.84
	44,687.00
	79,670.50

Table 1

£
58,125.70
84,291.63
26,545.80
106,252.80
49,018.60
21,379.44
81,493.80
93,730.00
32,842.80
45,793.80
67,750.95
13,000.00
21,750.00
18,270.00
76,891.00
103,387.00
41,338.48
87,704.50
26,545.80
52,650.00
67,684.80
45,056.05
98,562.58
41,338.48
46,998.90
75,076.50
22,562.60
46,538.80
46,823.80
42,767.53
58,739.34
80,934.23
44,246.80
61,349.00
81,733.20
42,738.00
15,656.00
15,656.00
9,293.58
87,704.50
33,660.00
28,400.00
2,816.00
6,240.00
70,200.73
98,943.75
27,037.50
25,930.25
40,594.08
24,360.75
47,799.91
60,516.97
84,187.50

Table 1

£
59,053.50
50,614.20
55,179.28
52,938.01
50,306.26
18,369.00
55,179.28
37,345.25
60,512.50
41,886.49
26,549.55
55,080.00
94,385.01
60,687.20
24,453.00
180,452.60
134,817.59
63,117.16
56,950.34
60,757.64
16,530.00
24,774.75
71,107.26
57,808.24
53,625.00
25,740.00
30,201.60
16,087.50
79,150.50
57,352.17
57,845.00
58,686.72
48,053.65
68,323.75
54,917.01
36,036.48
19,821.98
18,133.01
48,732.81
81,836.76
8,000.00
58,916.00
74,778.00
41,749.50
56,196.00
9,375.00
38,243.76
60,982.34
76,581.51
76,983.73
50,198.01
38,342.20
133,536.00

Table 1

	£
	84,298.50
	93,520.98
	92,534.65
	63,705.96
	39,146.25
	8,853.21
	52,498.43
	19,063.80
	18,924.00

Courts: Hitchin

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 173W, on courts, what timetable has been set for the closure of Hitchin county court and the transfer of cases elsewhere; and if he will make a statement. [63005]

Mr Djanogly: A schedule of the proposed dates for court closures and information on the transfer of work can be found on the HM Courts and Tribunals Service website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts/courts.htm

The closure of Hitchin county court takes place over the weekend of 2 and 3 July.

Family Proceedings

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many families appeared in family court proceedings in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [62707]

Mr Djanogly: Table 1 shows the total number of applications made in the county courts and High Court of England and Wales relating to divorce, domestic violence and forced marriage protection orders in 2009 and 2010; as well as the number of ancillary relief applications dealt with.

Table 2 shows the number of children involved in public and private law applications made at family proceedings courts, county and High Courts in 2009 and 2010.

It is not possible to determine how many families these cases relate to except through the inspection of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Number of county court and high court applications or orders made in selected family cases, England and Wales, 2009 and 2010

	2009	[1]2010
Matrimonial proceedings: Total petitions filed	132,801	134,050
Ancillary relief: Total disposal of applications	79,883	79,027
Domestic violence: Total applications made	26,027	22,681
Forced marriage protection orders: Applications made	96	110

[1] Figures for 2010 are provisional. Revised figures for 2010 are due to be published on 30 June, 2011.

Notes:

1. Figures presented are for England and Wales only.
2. Data do not include applications made in family proceedings courts. The table presents data for county courts and High Courts only.
3. Figures relate to the number of applications or petitions made. In some areas of family law, such as ancillary relief and domestic violence, more than one application can be made for each case.
4. Matrimonial petitions data are the sum of petitions for dissolution, nullity and judicial separation.
5. Totals for ancillary relief disposals are the sum of disposals for applications which were uncontested, initially contested, subsequently consented and contested.
6. Domestic violence data are the sum of applications for non-molestation and occupation; and do not include applications for arrest warrants. A non-molestation order prevents the applicant and/or any relevant children from being molested by someone who has previously been violent towards them. An occupation order restricts the right of a violent partner to enter or live in a shared home.
7. Forced Marriage Protection Orders were introduced by the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act on 25 November 2008.

Source:

HMCTS FamilyMan system and summary returns

Table 2: Public and Private Law applications made in all tiers of court, England and Wales, 2009 and 2010

	2009	[1]2010
Public Law: Total applications made	25,810	24,020
Private Law: Total applications made	137,480	122,330

[1] Figures for 2010 are provisional. Revised figures for 2010 are due to be published on 30 June, 2011.

Notes:

1. Figures presented are for England and Wales only.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to each application. If an application is made for two children in one family, the case will be counted twice.
3. All tiers of court are represented in the answer; specifically the family proceedings court, county court and High Court.
4. Public Law refers to Children Act 1989 cases where there are child welfare issues and a local authority, or an authorised person, is stepping in to protect the child and ensure they get the care they need.
5. Private Law refers to Children Act 1989 cases where two or more parties are trying to resolve a private dispute. This is commonly where parents have split up and there is a disagreement about contact with, or residence of, their children.
6. Private law refers to section 8 applications for residence, contact, specific issue and prohibited steps; and parental responsibility orders, financial applications and special guardianship orders.
7. Public law refers to section 8 applications for residence, contact, specific issue and prohibited steps; and parental responsibility orders, special guardianship orders, recovery orders, emergency protection orders, emergency protection (extension), emergency protection (discharge), child assessment, education supervision, care and supervision orders, care discharge, supervision discharge, secure accommodation, care contact and authority to refuse contact with a child.
8. Private Law applications exclude adoptions.

Source:

HMCTS FamilyMan system and summary returns

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* independent social workers and *(b)* other experts received payment for appearing in family court proceedings in (i) 2009 and (ii) 2010. [62709]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on how many independent social workers and other experts received payment for appearing in family proceedings is not held by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

However the following information on the number of independent social workers appointed in care cases for the last two years is shown as follows.

	2009	2010
Family proceedings courts (magistrates)	307	316
County courts	138	156

Note:
1. The data source is HMCS Performance Database (OPT).
2. These data were subject to the minimum data quality checks and are used for internal management information purposes only.

No information is held about the payment of experts on a central database. Details of payment may be held on some individual court files, but will not necessarily be present if the experts were funded privately, nor will expert's fees always be itemised separately on the costs statements concerning legal aid funding that are submitted to the courts. Providing the information, where held, from court files could be done only at disproportionate cost.

National Offender Management Service: Operating Costs

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the administrative and management costs, including staff, of each directorate of the National Offender Management Service in the latest period for which figures are available [62872]

Mr Blunt: The following table provides the latest estimated administrative and management budget costs, including staff, of each directorate in the National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) for financial year 2011-12.

	Administration (near cash) (£ million)
Operations—public prisons	1.068
Operations—regions	0.000
Operations—central	24.199
Operations—probation	0.000
Operations—private prisons	0.000
National operational services	41.715
High security	2.315
CEO/director general	3.691
Finance	7.551
Commissioning and commercial	39.163
Human resources	44.672
ICT/NOMIS	67.623
Central funds	-30.977
	201.020

Notes:
1. Administration budgets cover the costs of all National Offender Management Service (NOMS) administration. NOMS administration budgets broadly include the provision of a corporate management and governance framework, policy setting, legislative reporting and associated back office support services.
2. The central funds figure comprises: unidentified savings requirement; income from Youth Justice Board in respect of recharge of headquarters overheads; and funds held pending transfer to other Government Departments in supplementary estimate.

Offenders: Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether private sector providers will be required to conduct risk assessments on offenders placed on unpaid work. [63057]

Mr Blunt: The contract specification for unpaid work and the operating manual will apply to all providers, including potential providers from the private sector. Both require that risk assessments are undertaken using the NOMS prescribed risk assessment tool eOASys (Electronic Offender Assessment System).

Prison Sentences: Wales

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many custodial sentences of less than six months were handed down for *(a)* offenders of each sex and *(b)* each type of offence by courts in North Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [62683]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to immediate custody of less than six months by sex and type of offence, by courts used by North Wales police in 2010 can be viewed in the table.

Persons sentenced to an immediate custody of less than 6 months, by sex and type of offence, by courts used by North Wales police, 2010[1, 2, 3]

Court & Sex	*Violence against the person*	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft and handling stolen goods*	*Fraud and forgery*
Mold[4]						
Males	5	1	2	0	10	8
Females	0	0	0	0	2	2
Wrexham Maelor						
Males	6	1	7	0	62	2
Females	1	0	0	0	6	0
Flintshire						
Males	3	0	0	0	25	0
Females	0	0	0	0	3	0

Persons sentenced to an immediate custody of less than 6 months, by sex and type of offence, by courts used by North Wales police, 2010[1, 2, 3]

Court & Sex	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft and handling stolen goods	Fraud and forgery
Denbighshire						
Males	1	2	6	0	21	0
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0
Conwy						
Males	5	0	3	0	28	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ynys Mon/Anglesey						
Males	4	0	5	0	5	0
Females	0	0	0	0	1	0
Gwynedd						
Males	11	1	11	0	26	8
Females	0	0	0	0	1	1
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other indictable offences	Indictable motoring offences	Summary offences	Summary motoring offences
Mold						
Males	2	3	24	0	23	1
Females	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wrexham Maelor						
Males	3	0	17	0	47	11
Females	0	0	2	0	3	0
Flintshire						
Males	5	4	15	0	31	10
Females	0	0	1	0	4	0
Denbighshire						
Males	0	0	2	0	39	5
Females	0	0	3	0	3	0
Conwy						
Males	0	2	23	0	26	2
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ynys Mon/Anglesey						
Males	0	2	4	0	10	3
Females	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd						
Males	1	5	16	0	24	5
Females	0	0	3	0	2	0

	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other indictable offences	Indictable motoring offences	Summary offences	Summary motoring offences
Not Stated	0	0	0	0	1	0

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Sentences at a magistrates court are based in the area where the court is based rather than the prosecuting force. Therefore although these courts are based in North Wales these offences may not have been prosecuted by North Wales police.
[4] Sentences passed at the Crown Court are based on the prosecuting force.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Prisoners

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment the Prison Service makes of the potential effect on a victim of crime or a victim's family in determining any change of category of prison in which an offender convicted of that crime is held. [62758]

Mr Blunt: Recategorisation of prisoners and allocating them to appropriate prisons is vital to sentence management. The correct category ensures that prisoners are held in appropriately secure conditions, and subsequent allocation helps prisoners to use their sentences constructively, to tackle their offending behaviour and reduce the risks of re-offending on release.

Prisoners must be held in the lowest security category consistent with managing risk. The decision to recategorise a prisoner is taken only after a full and thorough risk assessment which includes consideration of the likelihood of escape and the subsequent risk of harm to the public should they do so. When a prisoner is being considered for allocation to open conditions, where the victim lives should form part of the consideration.

Under the statutory victim contact scheme operated by Probation Trusts, by virtue of section 35 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, victims of certain serious sexual or violent crimes where the offender has been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment or more may elect to receive information about key developments in the offender's sentence. This includes notification that a prisoner is being considered for a move to a lower security prison, and the outcome.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prison inmates are aged *(a)* between 60 and 65, *(b)* between 66 and 70, *(c)* between 71 and 75, *(d)* between 76 and 80 and *(e)* over 80 years; [62833]

(2) what the age is of the oldest prison inmate in England and Wales. [62834]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the population of prisoners by specified age groups in all prison establishments in England and Wales, from the most recent available data at the end of March 2011.

The oldest prisoner as at 31 March 2011 is 92 years of age.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population in prison establishments, by age group, as at 31 March 2011, England and Wales

Age group	Number of persons
60 to 65	1,637
66 to 70	755
71 to 75	390
76 to 80	150
81 and over	42

Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in implementing the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 in respect of financial reparations to victims. [62187]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is preparing to implement the Prisoners' Earnings Act 1996 in England and Wales. Deductions from prisoners' earnings will begin in September of this year. It remains our intention that all money deducted will go to organisations concerned with victims. The necessary Commencement Order and amendments to the Prison Rules will be made in due course.

The National Offender Management Service will make the deductions and is preparing its approach, including how best to inform prisoners and employers of the Act.

Clause 103 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is intended to give us a more flexible power to include more prisoners in the scheme of deductions.

Prisoners' Release: Re-offenders

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people reoffended within 12 months of release from a custodial sentence handed down by *(a)* a Magistrates' Court and *(b)* a Crown Court in each year since 1995. [62847]

Mr Blunt: The one year re-conviction data cover all adult offenders released from custody or commencing a court order between January and March of each year. The earliest available information regarding re-conviction is from 2000.

Table 1 shows the number and one year re-conviction rate of adult offenders who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2000 and 2002 to 2009 and were sentenced at a Crown court.

Table 2 shows the number and one year re-conviction rate of adult offenders who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2000 and 2002 to 2009 and were sentenced at a magistrates court.

Table 1: Re-conviction rates for adult offenders after release from a prison sentence given at a Crown court (2000 and 2002 to 2009 cohorts)

	Number of offenders	*Number re-convicted*	*Re-conviction rate (percentage)*
2000	7,457	2,885	38.7
2001	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2002	6,592	2,413	36.6
2003	6,388	2,243	35.1
2004	6,320	1,998	31.6
2005	6,024	1,743	28.9
2006	6,369	1,714	26.9
2007	5,837	1,580	27.1
2008	7,181	2,117	29.5
2009	8,430	2,787	33.1

[1] Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders.

Table 2: Re-conviction rates for adult offenders after release from a prison sentence given at a magistrates court (2000 and 2002 to 2009 cohorts)

	Number of offenders	*Number re-convicted*	*Re-conviction rate (percentage)*
2000	8,127	5,133	63.2
2001	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2002	8,860	6,094	68.8
2003	7,846	5,444	69.4
2004	9,334	6,151	65.9
2005	8,462	5,380	63.6
2006	7,900	4,933	62.4
2007	6,876	4,440	64.6
2008	8,799	5,789	65.8
2009	8,291	5,332	64.3

[1] Data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders.

Further information on adult re-conviction is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people reoffended within 12 months of release from an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection in each year since 2003. [62848]

Mr Blunt: Re-conviction rates for persons released from an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection are not available. However the Ministry of Justice will be publishing a new quarterly re-offending bulletin on 27 October 2011. This bulletin uses a new measure of re-offending through which it will be possible to provide re-offending rates for persons released from indeterminate sentences.

This new quarterly re-offending bulletin was recently announced in the published response on improvements in Ministry of Justice Statistics and the first publication will be on 27 October 2011. More details are available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/565.htm

Further information on adult re-conviction is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of foreign nationals in prisons in England and Wales. [62336]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales by nationality is published quarterly in the Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin "Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin" and available via:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/oms-quartlery.htm

From the most recent available data, end of March 2011, the foreign national prisoner population in all prison establishments in England and Wales is 10,745.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Education

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future level of financial education for prisoners diagnosed with mental health conditions. [62645]

Mr Blunt: "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation", published jointly with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 18 May, sets out a programme of reform of offender learning. We will place a much greater emphasis on developing the vocational and employability skills that offenders need in order to find and keep jobs and Apprenticeships in the labour markets where they will be released. We will continue to provide financial education to enhance the prospects of a prisoner (including those with diagnosed mental health conditions) securing employment. The review of offender learning also commits to provide greater support for prisoners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

In addition the National Offender Management Service is working with the Money Advice Service to enable prisoners, including those with mental health issues, to access appropriate financial advice.

Probation: Finance

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a probation trust would be financially liable for a successful probation lot bid which was above the contract price under his proposals for tendering for unpaid work. [62773]

Mr Blunt: The competition will require all bidders to submit a best and final offer which will include a contract price for the delivery of CP which will be evaluated to confirm it offers value for money to the MoJ. The successful bid will therefore become the contract price and the successful bidder will be contracted to deliver the services for the contract price.

Repossession Orders: Wandsworth

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders were issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* the London borough of Wandsworth and *(b)* Tooting constituency in each quarter since 2005. [62604]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the numbers of possession claims which led to an order being made for all mortgage and landlord properties in the London borough of Wandsworth and the parliamentary constituency of Tooting. These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made rather than the numbers of orders as they are more accurate, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. They also provide a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions. The following table shows these figures by quarter from 2005 to the first quarter of 2011, the latest period for which figures are available.

Total number of mortgage[1] and landlord[2] possession claims which led to an order being made[3, 4, 5] in the London borough of Wandsworth and Tooting parliamentary constituency[6] by quarter, 2005-2011 Q1[7]

		London borough of Wandsworth		Tooting parliamentary constituency	
	Quarter	Mortgage orders	Landlord orders	Mortgage orders	Landlord orders
2005	1	80	210	25	75
	2	65	280	25	95
	3	65	230	25	90
	4	70	180	25	80
2006	1	75	205	35	85
	2	70	205	25	60
	3	90	235	25	80
	4	90	180	40	60
2007	1	70	275	25	105
	2	70	160	15	50
	3	70	160	25	65
	4	50	155	20	55
2008	1	45	180	25	65
	2	90	200	30	60
	3	70	255	25	80
	4	65	170	25	45
2009	1	40	165	15	50
	2	80	200	35	70
	3	80	185	35	80
	4	45	155	15	65
2010	1	30	150	15	60
	2	35	130	10	50
	3	35	185	15	85
	4	45	165	15	75
2011	1	35	160	10	60

[1] The mortgage data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private (e.g. banks and building societies).
[2] The landlord data include all types of landlord whether social or private sector, and cover actions made using both the standard and accelerated possession procedures. The accelerated possession procedure is used by landlords in relation to assured shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end. It enables orders to be made by the court solely on the basis of written evidence and without calling the parties to a hearing.
[3] The number of claims that lead to an order includes claims in which the first order, whether outright or suspended, is made during the period.
[4] These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made. This is more accurate than the number of orders, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. It is also a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions.
[5] Repossessions can occur without a court order for possession being made, and not all court orders for possession subsequently result in repossession.
[6] The Tooting parliamentary constituency consists of different boundaries in the quarters up to and including 2010 Q1 and from 2010 Q2 onwards due to restructuring after the May 2010 general election.
[7] Counts have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the reintroduction of taper relief for capital gains tax. [61609]

Mr Gauke: No estimate of the cost to the Exchequer of reintroducing taper relief is available.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the status is of the funding allocated for Euro zone financial assistance, by *(a)* the International Monetary Fund, *(b)* the European Financial Stability facility and *(c)* the European Financial Stability Mechanism. [62355]

Mr Hoban: The international financial assistance package for Greece agreed in May 2010 included: a €30 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), of which €14.6 has been disbursed; and €80 billion of bilateral loans from euro area member states, of which €38.4 billion has been disbursed. There was no contribution either from the EU Budget or from the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM), which is backed by the EU Budget.

The international financial assistance package for Ireland agreed in December 2010 included: a €22.5 billion loan from the IMF, of which €7.2 billion has been disbursed; a €22.5 billion loan from the EFSM, of which €11.4 billion has been disbursed; a €17.5 billion loan from the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), of which €3.6 billion has been disbursed; and €5 billion of bilateral loans from the UK, Sweden and Denmark.

The international financial assistance package for Portugal agreed in May 2011 included a €26 billion loan from the EFSM, of which €6.5 billion has been disbursed;

a €26 billion loan from the IMF, of which €6.1 billion has been disbursed; and a €26 billion loan from the EFSF.

EU Budget

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to promote *(a)* a reduction in the EU Budget and *(b)* a net reduction in the UK's contribution to the EU Budget. [62542]

Justine Greening: The Government are intent on controlling the size of the EU Budget, and thereby the level of the UK's contributions, in discussions of both EU annual budgets and the next financial perspective. The Government have been clear that the 4.9% increase in EU spending in 2012 proposed by the Commission is unacceptable. The Government will continue to work with other member states to deliver the best possible outcome for UK taxpayers in future negotiations.

Fiscal Policy

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the implications for his economic policy of the trend in household consumption in the first quarter of 2011; and if he will make a statement. [62588]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published its forecast for household consumption in its Economic and Fiscal Outlook in March 2011. This takes account of the current Government's economic policy. The OBR forecast that household consumption will grow by 0.6% in 2011 and 1.3% in 2012.

International Monetary Fund: Public Appointments

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he is supporting the candidature of Christine Lagarde for managing director of the International Monetary Fund. [62361]

Mr Hoban: The UK continues to support the G20 commitment to open, transparent and merit based selection of the heads and senior leadership of international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund.

The international community needs a strong IMF as an anchor of global economic stability and prosperity. That is why the UK believes it is important to support the strongest candidate for the next managing director, irrespective of nationality. On the basis of merit, the UK believes Christine Lagarde is the outstanding candidate. She has shown real international leadership as chair of the G20 Finance Ministers this year and has been a strong advocate for countries tackling high budget deficits and living within their means.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for the national insurance holiday scheme in each region had been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved as at 31 May 2011. [61184]

Mr Gauke: Up to 31 May 2011, HMRC had received *(a)* 4,368 successful and *(b)* 148 unsuccessful applications for the NICs holiday from new businesses. The regional breakdown is as follows:

	Successful	*Unsuccessful*
Northern Ireland	190	10
Scotland	597	14
Wales	263	12
East Midlands	419	10
North East	280	14
North West	804	28
South West	720	24
West Midlands	534	21
Yorkshire and Humber	561	15
Total	4,368	148

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 516W, on national insurance contributions, how many new jobs have been created in each region to which the national insurance holiday has applied since its inception. [62523]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has received 4,368 successful applications for the national insurance contributions (NICs) holiday (up to 31 May 2011). The regional breakdown is as follows:

	Applications received
Northern Ireland	190
Scotland	597
Wales	263
East Midlands	419
North East	280
North West	804
South West	720
West Midlands	534
Yorkshire and Humber	561
Total	4,368

Analysis suggests that on average each business will claim for approximately two employees. This implies that the scheme has supported around 8,700 new jobs.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax inspectors HM Revenue and Customs expects to *(a)* recruit and *(b)* retire in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [62757]

Mr Gauke: Following the merger of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise on 18 April 2005, HMRC no longer uses the specific title of 'tax inspector'. Instead, since the formation of HMRC all staff are known as 'officers of Revenue and Customs'. The Department does not therefore keep or forecast information on numbers of tax inspectors.

Compliance functions previously carried out by tax inspectors are spread across the staff profile of various parts of the Department. The compliance effort throughout the SR period will be bolstered by redeployment and

recruitment, including graduate recruitment, and supported by targeted training on a modular basis according to the needs of the individual and their job role.

Revenue and Customs: Training

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the budget of HM Revenue and Customs has been allocated to training tax inspectors in techniques to address tax *(a)* evasion and *(b)* avoidance in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [62756]

Mr Gauke: HMRC no longer uses the term 'tax inspector' but training for its staff consists of various modules from the Tax Professional Qualifications Catalogue which equip them with the skills and knowledge to tackle evasion and avoidance. The salary and miscellaneous budgets allocated to the team responsible for the design, development and delivery of the tax learning packages in question total £7.36 million for 2011-12. This represents 0.2% of the total HMRC budget and does not include the salary costs of trainees. There is a rolling programme to identify and address staff learning needs using this modular approach.

Tax Avoidance

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 327W, on tax avoidance, what the *(a)* number and *(b)* types of criminal attack on the tax system investigation by HM Revenue and Customs since 2005 were; and what the (i) cost and (ii) amount of revenue recovered was in each case. [62792]

Mr Gauke: It is not possible for HMRC to provide the answer to the question in the requested format as this information is not collated and recorded in a way that would enable the level of detail requested to be identified. Estimates of losses which predominantly relate to organised crime exist for Tobacco, Alcohol, Oils and VAT Missing Trader Intra Community fraud and these can be found in the Measuring Tax Gaps 2010 document at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 327W, on tax avoidance, what proportion of the funding provided to HM Revenue and Customs was spent on addressing *(a)* tax avoidance, *(b)* tax evasion and *(c)* criminal attacks in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [62793]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 550W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain).

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 327W, on tax avoidance, what proportion of the £917 million investment in HM Revenue and Customs has been budgeted for in each year of the comprehensive spending review. [62794]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's business plan for 2011-12 shows a re-investment of £132 million while indicative plans for the remaining years of the spending review period are £191 million, £268 million and £326 million respectively.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 327W, on tax avoidance, when he expects HM Revenue and Customs to publish Measuring Tax Gaps 2011. [62795]

Mr Gauke: Measuring Tax Gaps 2011 will be published on 21 September 2011, as announced on HMRC's website.

Taxation: Business

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers HM Revenue and Customs has to defer the payment of tax liabilities of corporations; and for what reason the Chief Executive of HM Revenue and Customs is unable to provide substantive responses to questions about the deferral of tax liabilities of individual corporations. [62332]

Mr Gauke: Under the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005, the Commissioners are responsible for the collection and management of the taxes, duties and national insurance contributions for which HMRC is responsible. Decisions in the courts have illustrated the scope of the administrative discretion which may be exercised when carrying out this responsibility. It is clear that this discretion is limited but it allows HMRC to facilitate the overall task of tax collection by obtaining for the Exchequer the highest net return practicable.

Information about any aspect of a taxpayer's tax affairs is confidential, including arrangements for deferral of liabilities.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations the Government have made at EU level, to whom and on what date, on the introduction at EU level of legislation supporting contract transparency and project-by-project reporting similar to Section 1504 of the US Dodd-Frank law since February 2011. [62062]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Battersea (Jane Ellison) on 28 June, *Official Report*, column 687-8W.

VAT: Energy

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the change in the level of revenue that will be raised from VAT on domestic energy as a result of the level of changes in fuel prices in each year since 2007; [60408]

(2) what his estimate is of projected VAT yields for 2011-12 from domestic fuel bills. [60409]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* No estimate has been made of the impact on VAT of increased fuel prices for the period since 2007. No estimate of the VAT payable in 2011-12 on domestic fuel has yet been made.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Anglo-Irish Secretariat

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* other expenses for staff working within the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in each year since its formation. [62509]

Mr Paterson: The Anglo-Irish Secretariat was established in 1985 and ran until 1998. The Northern Ireland Office no longer holds the information requested.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many invoices received by his Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62487]

Mr Paterson: Payments for the Northern Ireland Office are contracted out to a Northern Ireland Civil Service Department, whose prompt payment target is payment cleared within 10 days.

	On time—10 day target		*Outside 10 day target*	
	Number of transactions	*Value of transactions (£)*	*Number of transactions*	*Value of transactions (£)*
May 2010	896	1,340,930	49	29,238
June 2010	947	2,531,755	22	237,888
July 2010	801	1,181,807	30	115,302
August 2010	804	1,423,146	25	133,309
September 2010	852	1,295,094	17	59,548
October 2010	798	1,964,920	10	24,220
November 2010	843	1,013,219	4	24,801
December 2010	548	678,315	6	65,425
January 2011	714	956,056	18	45,998
February 2011	774	1,346,735	4	20,386
March 2011	927	1,013,562	26	73,260
April 2011	598	869,367	17	26,343
May 2011	687	861,971	32	16,691

	On time—5 day target		*Outside 5 day target*	
	Number of transactions	*Value of transactions (£)*	*Number of transactions*	*Value of transactions (£)*
May 2010	232	307,007	713	1,063,161
June 2010	309	448,757	660	2,320,886
July 2010	276	353,279	555	943,830
August 2010	394	660,321	435	896,134
September 2010	440	555,812	429	798,830
October 2010	377	736,523	431	1,252,617
November 2010	473	401,873	374	636,147
December 2010	279	227,329	275	516,411
January 2011	361	438,855	371	563,199
February 2011	452	431,071	326	936,050
March 2011	305	366,463	648	720,359
April 2011	112	300,854	503	594,856
May 2011	181	142,525	538	736,137

Departmental Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation for staff in his Department in each year since 2007. [62526]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

In the financial year for 2010-11 the Department spent £616,786.00 on staff travel and £104,548.00 on accommodation.

Fuels: Prices

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Northern Ireland Executive, *(b)* energy companies and *(c)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer on recent trends in fuel prices in Northern Ireland. [62524]

Mr Paterson: I have not received any requests for discussions on these matters from Northern Ireland Executive Ministers nor do I have any ministerial responsibility in these areas. It remains open to Northern Ireland Ministers to raise these matters with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other ministerial colleagues.

Parades

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent representations he has received on the issue of parades and protests in Northern Ireland since May 2010. [62508]

Mr Paterson: I have received a number of both written and verbal representations from individuals, various groups and organisations with a range of differing views on parading. All decisions on parades in Northern Ireland remain a matter for the Parades Commission.

VAT: Hotels

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on the rate of VAT levied on hotels in Northern Ireland. [62392]

Mr Paterson: I have not received any representations; taxes are generally the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Asylum

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Dublin II process for the handling of asylum seekers' cases; and if he will make a statement. [62678]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The Government strongly supports the Dublin Regulation ("Dublin II"). The Regulation ensures that just one member state—generally the first one in which the individual claimed asylum or entered unlawfully—is responsible for considering an asylum claim made in the EU.

This makes it more difficult to abuse asylum processes in the EU by making multiple claims in different member states, or by delaying an asylum claim until the individual has reached his or her preferred destination. It also provides certainty for the asylum seeker by ensuring that a specific member state is obliged to consider his or her claim.

Between 2006 and 2010, the UK removed 6,034 people to other member states under the Dublin Regulation and accepted 1,849 transfers from other member states. These figures are based on management information that is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The figures do not constitute part of the National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Davinder Singh Bhullar

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the Government of India the case of Professor Davinder Singh Bhullar. [62851]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I wrote to the Indian High Commissioner on 20 June, reiterating the UK Government's strong opposition to the death penalty and urging the Government of India to reconsider Mr Bhullar's sentence. I have also raised our concerns with Indian Foreign Secretary Rao on 28 June. We continue to urge the Government of India to establish a formal moratorium as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty in India.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to promote visual data security in his Department; and what training his Department provides to its officials in respect of the management of visual data security. [60909]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office takes information security very seriously and has measures in place to meet the risks posed from visual display units (VDUs) being overlooked, both in the office environment and when working remotely. Specific measures include a requirement for all staff to adhere to the relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the ICT equipment they have been authorised to use, including mobility devices. The department's VDUs are programmed to go into 'hibernation' if not activated within a short period of time; staff are instructed not to leave their units switched on when away from their desks; screens may be 'anonomised' where considered necessary for those working inside and away from the office. If staff need to work remotely and view information that is sensitive, they must ensure that they cannot be overlooked. 'Privacy screen panels' are available to mitigate the risk of "shoulder surfing". The need to ensure visual data security is considered as part of any office accommodation moves.

Staff are trained in all aspects of data handling and security in a variety of ways including: annual completion of mandatory 'protecting information' training, induction courses; regular briefing and other training events; articles on departmental intranet sites and ad hoc reminders as and when considered necessary.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department will incur in relation to the Defence and Security Equipment International Exhibition between 13 and 16 September 2011; and whether Ministers from his Department plan to attend the event. [60760]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will not incur any costs in relation to the Defence and Security International Exhibition. The programme of UK Ministers will be decided nearer to the date of the exhibition.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what strategic framework his Department has developed for the delivery of its core functions during the comprehensive spending review period. [59728]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Business Plan

http://www.number10.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/FCO-Business-Plan1.pdf

launched in October 2010, and updated in May 2011 sets out the coalition Government's vision for the FCO over the next four years. The Business Plan sets out how the FCO will deliver on the Programme for Government commitments relevant to its work.

The Business Plan is consistent with the National Security Strategy and Strategic Security and Defence Review published in October 2010.

The FCO reports monthly on its progress against the Business Plan:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/business-plan

From July we will also publish a quarterly data summary covering indicators on spending, reform and performance. The data summary is designed to be in a format that is consistent across departments.

Mediterranean Region: Human Trafficking

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will support EU initiatives to improve joint patrolling arrangements in the Mediterranean sea in order to deter and apprehend people traffickers. [62679]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

The UK supports the changes made in the amending regulation on Frontex, on which political agreement has been reached. It will be formally adopted in plenary by the European Parliament in early autumn 2011 and by the Council shortly after. We believe that the amending regulation will help improve joint patrolling arrangements in the Mediterranean sea by giving Frontex more control over where member states' technical equipment and human resources are deployed. The amending Frontex regulation also gives Frontex a mandate to process personal data in the course of its operational activities of persons suspected of people trafficking and smuggling, under condition that it is lawful, necessary and proportionate in relation to the tasks of the agency; and to pass this data to Europol for their action. We expect this to be a significant improvement in the fight against human trafficking and other forms of cross-border criminality.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mr Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of efforts made by the Syrian authorities to stop demonstrators entering Israel; what recent representations he has made to the Syrian authorities on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [62088]

Alistair Burt: Following the deaths of four Palestinians near Kuneitra and Majdal Shams in the Israeli/Syrian disengagement zone during protests on 15 May (Nakba), our ambassador to Syria called on the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister to urge the Syrian authorities to show restraint and to make appropriate preparations to ensure the technical fence was not breached ahead of the Naksa (6 June) anniversary.

On 6 June, 600 Palestinians again gathered near Kuneitra and Majdal Shams. A further attempt to breach the technical fence reportedly resulted in the deaths of 23 Palestinians after the Israel Defence Forces opened fire in order to prevent the protestors from crossing the ceasefire line.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said in a statement on 6 June,

"I am deeply concerned by reports that a number of protesters have been killed and others injured following protests in the Golan Heights yesterday. We recognise Israel's right to defend herself. It is vital that any response is proportionate, avoiding lethal use of force unless absolutely necessary, and that the right to protest is respected. I continue to call on all parties, including the Governments of Israel and Syria, to do everything they can to protect the lives of civilians and to avoid provocative acts."

Turks and Caicos Islands: Economic Situation

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the progress made by the Turks and Caicos Islands towards reducing its budget deficit. [61467]

Mr Duncan: I have been asked to reply.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials receive weekly and monthly revenue and expenditure reports from the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Government which show that financial performance in the opening period of this financial year is in line with the budget to March 2012. The budget to March 2012 sets TCI on a path to substantially reduce the deficit from last year's outturn. For further information on DFID's support to TCI, I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 28 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the cost of rolling out *(a)* superfast broadband and *(b)* superfast broadband over fibre to each household in the UK. [61568]

Mr Vaizey: The cost of deploying *(a)* superfast broadband and *(b)* superfast broadband over fibre remains largely unchanged from previous estimates. The cost of deploying superfast broadband using a Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) approach to 90% of UK premises UK would be over £4 billion and the cost of deploying fibre to every premises in the UK would be over £25 billion. The remaining 10% of premises under the FTTC approach would require a mixed technology solution. Commercial investors have already committed to address at least 66% of premises under the FTTC approach.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in London; [61618]

(2) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the West Midlands; [61619]

(3) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in Northern Ireland; [61620]

(4) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in Wales; [61621]

(5) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in Scotland; [61622]

(6) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the North East; [61623]

(7) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the North West; [61624]

(8) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in East Anglia; [61625]

(9) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the South West; [61626]

(10) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the South East; [61627]

(11) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in Yorkshire and the Humber; [61628]

(12) what recent progress his Department has made on the roll-out of superfast broadband in the East Midlands. [61629]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I recently announced funding for three more local authority areas to be supported under the broadband delivery programme: Norfolk, Wiltshire, and Devon and Somerset. Work is also progressing on the four pilot projects in Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and Highlands and Islands. My Department is working with the local authorities in the remaining areas in England and with the three devolved Administrations to progress their broadband plans. There will shortly be an announcement of the indicative allocations for county areas in England and the devolved Administrations, to help them focus their broadband plans. In the case of the devolved Administrations they have, by agreement with my Department, adopted responsibility for co-ordinating broadband plans within their areas of administrative responsibility. My Department will, however, continue to work closely with all authorities and has already made available an online resource centre, and is developing a framework procurement contract which will be open to all authorities to use and will help minimise the number of procurements, and has also assembled an experienced team to assist the delivery of our broadband objectives.

Broadband: Lancashire

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what representations he has received on community access to the Cleo broadband network in Northern Lancashire; [62092]

(2) for what reason Sunderland Point has not been given access to the Cleo broadband network in Northern Lancashire. [62093]

Mr Vaizey: I have not received any direct representations regarding access to the Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online (CLEO) network. The relevant local authorities have responsibility for operation of the network and provision of access to it. The Government encourages the reuse of public sector networks to facilitate the rollout of superfast broadband where it is feasible to do so.

Buckingham Palace: Demonstrations

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) on what grounds the Royal Parks Agency declined to approve a demonstration by Republic planned to take place outside Buckingham Palace on 25 June 2011; and if he will make a statement; [62030]

(2) what discussions he had with *(a)* the Metropolitan police and *(b)* the Royal Parks Agency on planned protests by Republic outside Buckingham Palace. [62031]

John Penrose: The Royal Parks (TRP) regularly accommodates public demonstrations and the chief executive has made clear to Republic that he will consider accommodating a demonstration in a prominent place adjacent to The Mall in St James's park. This is in line with its longstanding policy which seeks to balance the needs of all visitors to the Royal Parks.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not held discussions with the Metropolitan police or TRP on this matter.

Churches: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to support the architectural heritage of ecclesiastical buildings in *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [61650]

John Penrose: The Government supports the architectural heritage of ecclesiastical buildings in St Albans and Hertfordshire in a number of ways.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport operates the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme which makes a contribution towards the VAT incurred in making repairs to the listed places of worship of any faith or denomination.

In partnership with the Church Commissioners, the Department funds the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which cares for the most significant Church of England churches no longer needed for regular worship. In 2009-11, CCT spent £74,000 on repairing and maintaining its churches in the Diocese of St Albans of which £43,000 was spent on churches in Hertfordshire.

The running and maintenance of relevant English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund schemes are their responsibility. I have therefore asked their chief executives to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for St Albans and to write to her direct. Copies of their replies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Culture

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the contribution to the UK economy of the *(a)* television and radio, *(b)* design, *(c)* art and

antiques, *(d)* architecture, *(e)* advertising, *(f)* tourism, *(g)* designer fashion, *(h)* film, video and photography, *(i)* music, visual and performing arts, *(j)* publishing, *(k)* software and electronic publishing and *(l)* digital and entertainment media industry. [61566]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department publishes statistics on the gross value added (GVA), employment and number of businesses within the creative industries. These statistics include all of the categories mentioned, apart from tourism. The latest statistics were published in December 2010 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7634.aspx

The Office for National Statistics Tourism Intelligence Unit have produced a Tourism Satellite Account to show how tourism contributes to the UK's National Accounts. The latest statistics were published in May 2011 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/tsa0511.pdf

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agency, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61708]

John Penrose: The Department provides regular updates on The Royal Parks headcount and natural wastage through its Annual Report and Accounts, and monthly returns to the Office for National Statistics. We have no plans to provide separate detailed updates given the administrative burden this entails.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61683]

John Penrose: The Department's standard terms and conditions, and those terms and conditions that we adopt from other public sector agreements, contain clauses that set out relevant standards of behaviour required in the execution of any contract. Details of the terms and conditions for goods and services that we follow can be found on the Office of Government Commerce website at the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/
Model_terms_and_conditions_for_goods_and_services.asp

English Heritage

George Hollingbery: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the cost of *(a)* admission and *(b)* venue hire at each English Heritage site in each year since 2005. [61924]

John Penrose: The information requested is not held by this Department and relates to matters that are the responsibility of English Heritage.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of English Heritage to write direct to the hon. Member for Meon Valley.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Press Regulation

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has assessed the effect on supply to consumers of newspapers and magazines of the self-regulation of the newspaper and magazine supply industry. [62318]

Mr Vaizey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 292W, to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mrs Leech).

Satellites

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on measures to reform the global satellite orbital filing regime for the purposes of supporting UK satellite operators and the space sector's growth agenda. [62224]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are supporting Ofcom's efforts to introduce a minimum condition for bringing satellite orbit slots into use. The aim is to announce proposals for the new measures at the World Radio conference in January 2012.

Sports: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance Sport England has provided to community sports clubs and projects in Dartford constituency in each year since 2005. [61940]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England invests national lottery and Exchequer funding in community sport. The financial assistance awarded to community sports clubs and projects in the Dartford constituency can be found in the following tables:

Lottery funding	*Total (£)*
2005-06	—
2006-07	—
2007-08	30,000
2008-09	—
2009-10	12,000
2010-11	1,400

Exchequer funding	*Total (£)*
2005-06	194,400
2006-07	255,600
2007-08	—
2008-09	—

Exchequer funding	*Total (£)*
2009-10	60,000
2010-11	—

Telecommunications: Credit

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with telecommunications companies on the introduction of a credit limit for consumers. [61563]

Mr Vaizey: No discussions have been held, as this is a commercial issue in which Government do not involve themselves. Telecommunications companies are best able to consider and decide whether they should introduce such facilities for their customers.

Video Recordings: Certification

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has set a timetable for the consultation exercise on the operation of the Video Recordings Act 1984 and 2010 following the report of the Independent Review on the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. [61881]

Mr Vaizey: The consultation will be launched in the summer.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Redundancy

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of RAF redundancies that will be made in each category of position in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [62344]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likelihood that RAF personnel who have been made redundant will be re-employed on a future date in their previous roles. [62345]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* It is estimated that there will be up to 1,020 service personnel issued with a letter of redundancy in September 2011 as part of the current phase of the RAF's redundancy programme. Those personnel notified of their redundancy will leave the RAF in either February or August 2012. Further redundancy measures will be determined once the outcome of the current phase has been fully assessed, but it is expected that the total number of RAF redundancies will be approximately 3,000 by 31 August 2013.

Individuals who are made redundant may apply to re-join the RAF through normal channels, subject to appropriate vacancies being available.

Air Force: Training

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much funding was allocated for Royal Air Force training in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [62364]

Mr Robathan: Training in the RAF covers a wide range of activities and is continual through service life. The full costs are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* establishment by numbers of (i) Land Command, (ii) Navy Command and (iii) Air Command (A) is for 2011-12 and (B) was in each of the last five years. [60529]

Mr Robathan: The estimated cost for financial year 2011-12 and personnel strength, civilian and military, as at 1 April 2011 for Top Level Budget (TLB) holders in Land Command, Navy Command and Air Command are shown in the following table:

	Land Command	*Navy Command*	*Air Command*
Total departmental expenditure limit (£ million)	7,030	2,332	2,778
Personnel strength	127,540	37,580	41,950

This does not include the cost of operations.

The financial outturn and personnel strengths, civilian and military, for each of the five last years for TLB holders in Land Command, Navy Command and Air Command are shown in the following tables:

Outturn by financial year total departmental expenditure limit

£ million

	Land Command	*Navy Command*	*Air Command*
2006-07	6,297	2,148	2,686
2007-08	6,504	2,185	2,635
2008-09	6,724	2,185	2,733
2009-10	6,635	2,223	2,812
2010-11	7,273	2,303	2,837

The 2010-11 figures have not been audited. Final figures will be provided in the 2010-11 departmental annual report and accounts. This does not include the cost of operations.

Personnel strength	*Land Command*	*Navy Command*	*Air Command*
1 April 2007	125,230	39,640	36,250
1 April 2008	127,380	37,740	43,400
1 April 2009	126,960	37,780	43,840
1 April 2010	130,840	38,340	44,380

During the periods shown a number of TLBs merged; where this is the case the data have been combined.

Data for 2006 are not held in the format required.

Armed Forces: Education

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he proposes to give priority to the children of military service personnel in school applications under the Military Covenant. [61376]

Mr Robathan: Under the work of the Armed Forces Covenant, fair access protocols have been included within the schools admissions codes to ensure that service children are not disadvantaged in accessing school places. This will not constitute a priority over others but will include the ability to apply for a school place on receipt of a posting notice and the ability of schools to exceed admission numbers to make a place available for a service child. The Ministry of Defence will engage in the Department for Education's consultation in 2011-12 looking at admissions and the appeals process to ensure service children and their families are taken into account.

Armed Forces: Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve the energy efficiency of service family accommodation. [62745]

Mr Robathan: Energy efficiency improvements are considered and undertaken as part of all works to service family accommodation where appropriate and subject to funding being secured.

Further work, including loft insulation and new heating systems, is undertaken as required.

Armed Forces: Parachuting

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of soldiers required to be fully parachute trained; and how many soldiers are in receipt of parachute pay. [62307]

Nick Harvey: The strategic defence and security review included a commitment for a high-readiness, light, short-duration intervention capability, organised and trained for parachute and air assault operations. This will result in a reduction in the number of posts requiring a parachute qualification. Details of the timing and implementation of any changes are still being worked through.

As at 31 May 2011, 2,790 soldiers were in receipt of special pay parachute.

Defence

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military capabilities he assesses to be *(a)* essential for the UK and *(b)* unaffordable for the UK to fund alone. [62308]

Nick Harvey: The strategic defence and security review set out the future force structure and capabilities we intend to deliver for the 2020s, and our approach to deepening relations with international partners to share capabilities, technologies and programmes.

Departmental Public Bodies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has set a date to dispose of *(a)* the Met Office, *(b)* the UK Hydrographic Office and *(c)* the Base Repair and Maintenance Organisations. [62284]

Mr Robathan: As announced in the strategic defence and security review, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) intends to sell the Defence Support Group, which incorporates the former Army Base Repair Organisation and Defence Aviation Repair Agency, by no later than the end of the current spending review period, March 2015. The MOD currently has no plans to privatise the Met Office or UK Hydrographic Office.

Departmental Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of civilian redundancies within the Ministry of Defence Police on its capacity to provide security and policing to his Department's estates and property. [62496]

Mr Robathan: A range of options that will define the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s future requirement for civil policing capabilities and services are currently under consideration. No final decisions have yet been taken, but we will continue to maintain effective and proportionate levels of security at all our sites to safeguard our people, assets and information.

The current voluntary early release scheme for civilian staff in the MOD is intended to avoid the need for redundancies. Applications for early release that are submitted by MOD police officers will be considered in the context of ensuring that the future operational effectiveness of the force is not adversely affected.

Departmental Travel

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 829-30W, on departmental travel, (1) what was purchased in each case; what the monetary value was of each such purchase; and what action his Department took in each case; [62402]

(2) what each incident was which was reported to his Department's whistleblowing hotline which resulted in staff being disciplined from May 2005 to May 2010. [62403]

Mr Robathan: From the eight incidents reported in my previous answer, the following lists the items purchased, their value, and the action taken by the Department:

Items purchased	*Action taken*	*Value of items (£)*
Not recorded (expenditure through PayPal)	Disciplinary action	10.99
Picture framing material	Prosecution	183.00
Flights	Prosecution	3,786.34
General personal expenditure	Disciplinary action	714.11
Food shopping	Disciplinary action	49.17
Furniture	Prosecution	4,030.00
Laptop and IT products	Prosecution	1,600.00
Not recorded (expenditure through Fly Thomas Cook.com and Money Shop)	Police caution	781.50

MOD Sites: Hampshire

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which sites are owned by his Department within the boundaries of *(a)* Basingstoke and Deane borough council, *(b)* East Hampshire district council, *(c)* Eastleigh borough council, *(d)* Fareham borough council, *(e)* Gosport borough council, *(f)* Hart district council and *(g)* Havant borough council; [62312]

(2) which sites are owned by his Department within the boundaries of *(a)* New Forest district council, *(b)* Rushmoor borough council, *(c)* Test Valley borough council, *(d)* Winchester city council, *(e)* Portsmouth city council, *(f)* Southampton city council and *(g)* Isle of Wight council. [62313]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the Ministry of Defence sites, by local council, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 394-7W, on records of detention (review conclusions), how many captured persons have been transferred to US forces in Iraq; and how many individuals so transferred have subsequently been transferred to the Iraqi authorities since 31 December 2008. [62201]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* For the reasons set out in the statement by the then Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Hutton) on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 394-97, we cannot be confident that the data that we hold is entirely complete and, therefore, we are not able to provide an overall total for individuals captured by UK forces in Iraq and transferred to US forces under the previous Government. The number subsequently transferred to Iraqi authorities is primarily a matter for the US and Iraqi Governments. However, it should be noted that the review concluded UK forces exercised appropriately their responsibilities towards all captured personnel handed to US custody in Iraq, and uncovered no evidence of mistreatment.

MOD Sites: Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which sites are owned by his Department within the boundaries of *(a)* Adur district council, *(b)* Arun district council, *(c)* Chichester district council, *(d)* Crawley borough council, *(e)* Horsham district council, *(f)* Mid Sussex district council and *(g)* Worthing borough council. [62314]

Mr Robathan: A copy of the Ministry of Defence sites, by local council, will be placed in the Library of the House.

USA: Defence Academy

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the purpose was of the recent Defence Academy visit to the US; [61356]

(2) who participated in the recent Defence Academy visit to the US; [61357]

(3) what the cost to his Department was of the recent Defence Academy visit to the US. [61358]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* The recent Defence Academy visit to the US was part of the annual advanced command and staff course (ACSC) delivered by the Academy. ACSC attendees have been visiting the US for the last 10 years to examine the provenance and current status of security challenges in the USA, consider how the USA pursues its own security and provide a context for UK and international students' future work with the US military in coalition operations.

A total of 320 students and staff from the ACSC took part in the visit which was a week long and included US Defence establishments in Washington and Norfolk, Virginia.

Although the final cost of the visit has not been calculated at this stage because some bills are still outstanding, the cost to the Ministry of Defence is not expected to exceed £465,000. This figure covers food, accommodation, air and road transport. These costs are offset in part by income received from those overseas students, who pay to attend the course.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war; and if he will make a statement; [62579]

(2) what discussions he has had with his counterparts in *(a)* Belgium and *(b)* France on the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war; and if he will make a statement. [62580]

Mr Robathan: Traditionally, we mark the anniversary of the conclusion of a conflict rather than its beginning. However, given the importance of the centenary of the great war, it is likely that a number of anniversaries of key events from 2014 to 2018, including the beginning of the war, will be marked in an appropriate way. Government consideration of how such events will be remembered is in its early stages and we in the Ministry of Defence are in discussion with colleagues in other Government Departments on this. In time, these discussions will extend to the Belgian and French Governments.

Further details will be announced in due course.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Males: Primary Education

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what discussions she has had with the Department for Education on increasing the number of male teachers in primary schools. [61696]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Members: Equal Opportunities

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what progress she has made on her proposals to provide additional support for people with disabilities who wish to become hon. Members; and if she will make a statement. [61954]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* We have conducted a public consultation exercise, which ran from 16 February to 11 May 2011, to seek views on a range of proposals designed to help to remove barriers faced by disabled people who are seeking elected office. We are currently analysing the responses, and intend to announce the strategy later this year.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 642W, on apprentices, how many individuals will be funded by the allocation to providers to deliver level three and above qualifications for those over the age of 24. [62291]

Mr Hayes: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 441-2W.

In academic year 2009/10, advanced level apprenticeships made up 37% of adult starts[1]. We plan to reshape the Apprenticeships programme so that advanced level becomes the level to which learners and employers aspire, and we expect the proportion of starts at this level to increase over time.

[1] Statistical First Release, Data Service:
http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Business: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what grants or loans his Department has made available to *(a)* inward investors and *(b)* UK companies to (i) set up a new business and (ii) expand or consolidate existing businesses in each of the last five years. [61664]

Mr Prisk: In October 2010 the Government introduced the Regional Growth Fund, a fund of £1.4 billion available over three years to support projects and programmes with significant potential for economic growth and for creating additional sustainable private sector employment and to help those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth and prosperity. The Fund is open to both UK companies and inward investors and to set up new businesses or expand or consolidate existing businesses.

Over the period of the last five years this Department has made grants or loans available to both UK companies and inward investors to set up new businesses or expand or consolidate existing businesses by means of a number of schemes. These are set out as follows. Except where otherwise indicated, they were available over the entire period:

regional selective assistance, via the Selective Finance for Investment in England and (from October 2008) the Grant for Business Investment schemes, and available to small businesses and those in the assisted areas;

repayable launch investment, a risk-sharing Government investment available for the design and development of strategically important civil aerospace projects in the UK. There is no formal scheme, promotion or budget. The provision of repayable launch investment is entirely discretionary; each application is considered on its merits against a range of established criteria and also by the Treasury against public expenditure constraints and Government priorities; and

the Automotive Assistance Programme, introduced in January 2009 and closed on 31 December 2010, made possible loan guarantees and exceptionally loans to the automotive sector.

Businesses

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of *(a)* enterprises, *(b)* enterprises with employees and *(c)* enterprises with under 250 employees in the (i) 20% most and (ii) 20% least deprived wards in England for each year since 2005. [61097]

Mr Prisk: Not all of the requested information is available. However, the following table shows the numbers of registered enterprises in England in each year that were in the 20% most deprived local authorities and the 20% least deprived local authority areas. Figures are included for enterprises with less than 250 employees, but this will include some enterprises with no employees as we are unable to separate out these from other enterprises with low employment.

Enterprises in the most and least deprived areas2005-10

			20% most deprived LAs	*20% least deprived LAs*
2005	Enterprises		289,930	267,085
	Enterprises	<250 employees	288,105	266,060
2006	Enterprises		290,935	269,745
	Enterprises	<250 employees	289,090	268,715
2007	Enterprises		294,760	275,825
	Enterprises	<250 employees	292,940	274,795
2008	Enterprises		396,605	349,495
	Enterprises	<250 employees	394,495	348,355
2009	Enterprises		396,510	348,740
	Enterprises	<250 employees	394,395	347,555
2010	Enterprises		383,620	342,920
	Enterprises	<250 employees	381,605	341,750

Note:
There is a discontinuity in the series. Before 2008, UK Business covered VAT registered businesses only, but in 2008, it was extended to include all businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE.
Source:
ONS UK Business publication and CLG Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61718]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* At this stage it is too early to be able to make an accurate estimate of the total cost to the public purse of redundancies in this Department's non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period.

Fuels: Prices

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of supermarket pricing strategies for road fuel. [62538]

Mr Davey: None. Competition matters relating to pricing strategies fall to the Office of Fair Trading to investigate.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of supermarket fuel pricing policies on independent petrol forecourt operators. [62539]

Mr Davey: None. Competition matters related to pricing policies of individual firms fall to the Office of Fair Trading.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with supermarkets on their road fuel pricing policies. [62540]

Mr Davey: None. Competition matters related to pricing policies of individual firms falll to the Office of Fair Trading.

Further Education: Student Numbers

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average number of students in *(a)* sixth form and *(b)* other types of further education sector colleges was (i) on the latest date for which figures are available, (ii) in 2001 and (iii) in 1991. [62153]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Table 1 which follows shows further education learner participation by provider type for 2009/10 the latest year for which full year data is available. We hold data centrally for 2002/03 onwards, but not for 2001/02 or earlier.

Additionally, table 2 as follows shows a snapshot of participation by 16-18 year olds in education by institution type in 1991, 2001 and 2009. This information is published in a Department for Education Statistical First Release called 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England, which can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

Table 1: Further education learner participation by provider type, 2009/10

	Age	General FE college including tertiary	Sixth form college	Special colleges	All further education learner participation
2009/10	Under 19	682,240	153,850	25,330	1,095,010
	19+	1,635,590	30,930	137,856	3,540,500
	Overall	2,317,830	184,780	163,190	4,635,510

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. This data covers participation in learner responsive, apprenticeships, train to gain, adult safeguarded learning and university for industry provision, further education/learner responsive provision includes general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth form colleges—agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges, specialist colleges and external institutions.
3. Total FE provision is not the sum of general FE colleges, sixth form colleges and special colleges. Total FE provision also includes other public funded, private sector public funded and schools.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Data showing further education participation and achievement by provider type is available as a cascade of the Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on the 23 June 2011 and can be found at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Table 2: Participation by 16 to 18 year olds in education by institution type, 1991, 2001 and 2009

	General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	Sixth form colleges
1991	574,600	84,200
2001	480,700	120,100
2009	614,200	152,300

Notes:
1. Participation is based on snapshot data as at 1 November.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the academic year.
3. Participation includes both full and part-time education.

Source:
DfE: 'Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 year olds in England'.

Green Investment Bank

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he plans to use to evaluate bids for the creation of the Green Investment Bank. [62668]

Mr Prisk: The location for the headquarters of the Green Investment Bank will be chosen to enable it best to deliver its mission. The criteria will be: (1) ability to deliver the Green Investment Bank mission, (2) operational costs, and (3) access to required talent. Fuller details of these criteria are set out in Section 2.8 of the "Update on the design of the Green Investment Bank" which I published on 23 May. This decision will be taken in due course.

Multinational Companies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what definition of micro-multinational his Department uses. [62746]

Mr Prisk: BIS does not have a standard definition of a micro-multinational.

However, this Department produces annual estimates of the number of enterprises in the UK and for these purposes a micro firm is classified as one with between zero and nine employees.

An EU definition of a micro enterprise was adopted on 1 January 2005. It applies to all polices applied within the European Economic Area and the criteria are:

Maximum headcount of nine (employees and self-employed)

Maximum annual turnover of €2million (euros)

Maximum annual balance sheet total of €2million (euros).

Outer Space Act 1986

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress he has made on implementing reform of the Outer Space Act 1986 for the purposes of capping liabilities for UK operators and reducing third party insurance requirements. [62514]

Mr Willetts: Officials are reviewing the Outer Space Act 1986 with a view to making changes, as stated in the Plan for Growth. A number of preliminary meetings have taken place between industry and officials and an impact assessment is nearing completion. Further details regarding process and timescales will be published in due course.

Public Sector: Procurement

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department issues to other Government Departments and public bodies on the use of TrustMark accredited firms when letting contracts; and if he will make a statement. [62594]

Mr Prisk: TrustMark (2005) Ltd is responsible for promoting and raising awareness of the scope and benefits of the TrustMark scheme, which is geared towards the domestic repair, maintenance and improvement sector, rather than the contracting environment. Where appropriate, BIS helps TrustMark to make the necessary connections with other Departments and public bodies

South East England Development Agency

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which sites are owned by the South East of England Regional Development Agency within the boundaries of *(a)* New Forest District council, *(b)* Rushmoor borough council, *(c)* Test Valley borough council, *(d)* Winchester city council, *(e)* Portsmouth city council, *(f)* Southampton city council and *(g)* Isle of Wight council. [62310]

Mr Prisk: South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) owns the following sites within the boundaries of:

(a) New Forest district council:

Hythe Marine Park

(c) Test Valley borough council:

Andover Innovation Centre

(e) Portsmouth city council

Land at Tipner

(f) Southampton city council

Coburg Street/Drivers Wharf, Northam

Centenary Quay, Woolston

(g) Isle of Wight council

Former North Works, East Cowes

Island Technology Park, Whippingham

Land at Kingston

Land at Three Gates Road, Cowes

Land at Lake

Ryde Business Park

Former West Medina Mills, Newport

No sites owned by SEEDA are within the boundaries of Rushmoor borough council or Winchester city council.

Space Technology

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the recommendation in the Space Innovation and Growth Strategy to provide more capital guarantees and anchor tenancy agreements, including amending the policy of the Export Credits Guarantee Department to promote UK manufacturing and satellite financing in the UK. [62515]

Mr Willetts: The UK Space Agency is part of the industry-led implementation team that is assessing the evidence and need for more capital guarantees and will report its findings in due course. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has engaged with companies in the UK space sector about the availability of the support it can provide.

UK Trade & Investment

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what conferences his Department has sponsored in support of UK Trade & Industry aboard Royal Navy warships in the last 10 years. [62107]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* From information readily available, since its creation on 1 April 2008, UK Trade & Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) has supported a UK/Brazil Industry and Government conference and Defence and Security Industry Day on board HMS OCEAN in Rio de Janeiro on 13 and 14 September 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62731]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, the Cabinet Office has awarded three contracts to Capita. Of these, two have individual values of £3,135 and £9,333 (excluding VAT).

A third is billed on a volume-usage basis, and at the time of responding, £930 (excluding VAT) had been paid under this contract.

Civil Servants: Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* civil servants who have used facility time to attend trade union conferences, meetings and other events since January 2011, *(b)* hours of facility time used by civil servants since January 2011 and *(c)* the cost to the public purse of such time. [57627]

Mr Maude: The authority to grant facilities/time off to trades union representatives is delegated to departments; therefore individual departments are responsible for these costs. The information requested is not collected centrally.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62491]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office aims to pay all undisputed invoices within the terms of contract, usually 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice. The Cabinet Office is additionally committed to the prompt payment code and aims to pay all correctly rendered invoices as soon as possible within both a five day and 10-day payment target. The Department's performance against the 30-day target since May 2010 is shown in the following table:

	Number paid within 30-days	*Value of invoices paid within 30-days (£)*	*Number paid after 30-days*	*Value of invoices paid after 30-days (£)*
May 2010	1,597	24,112,721.99	3	84,932.37
June 2010	1,718	27,066,743.46	5	149,319.22
July 2010	1,425	49,561,354.52	6	84,932.37
August 2010	1,137	15,806,854.21	6	149,373.82
September 2010	1306	33,059,244.81	3	12,958.12
October 2010	1154	27,361,551.13	6	70,876.06
November 2010	1589	31,495,747.28	2	556.90
December 2010	1406	19,209,095.10	5	3,092.82
January 2011	1471	23,100,873.55	0	—
February 2011	1873	23,453,967.13	11	49,108.17
March 2011	1684	45,560,823.27	9	49,854.32
April 2011	1300	95,514,168.03	32	129,725.50
May 2011	1693	18,051,419.53	4	25,223.18
	19,353	433,354,564.01	92	809,952.85

EU Public Procurement Policy

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to publish the Government's response to the European Commission's consultation on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy; and if he will make a statement. [62849]

Mr Maude: The Government's response to the European Commission's consultation on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy is in the process of being finalised.

Once finalised, the response will be published on the Cabinet Office website. It is intended this will be by the end of July 2011.

Senior Civil Servants

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* name, *(b)* position, *(c)* salary and *(d)* date of appointment is of (i) the Cabinet Secretary and each permanent secretary in the Civil Service in receipt of a salary higher than that of the Prime Minister and (ii) each other civil service or other governmental post in receipt of such a salary. [62507]

Mr Maude: As part of the commitment to making Government more transparent and accountable, Departments are required to publish structure charts every six months showing the names, job roles and pay details for their senior staff, including Permanent Secretaries. These structure charts include information on individuals whose salary is higher than the Prime Minister's. Departmental structure charts can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram.

The names and dates of appointment for Permanent Secretaries with a salary higher than the Prime Minister are set out as follows. Cabinet Office does not collect information on the dates of appointment for other senior posts in Departments.

Name	*Department/Organisation*	*Date in post*	*Salaries in £5,000 bands*
O'Donnell, Gus	Cabinet Sec and Head of Home Civil Service	1 August 2005	235,000-239,999
Laws, Stephen	First Parliamentary Counsel—Cabinet Office	1 August 2006	225,000-229,999
Gray, Bernard	Chief Defence Materiel (MOD)	4 January 2011	215,000-219,999
Nicholson, David	National Health Service	4 September 2006	210,000-214,999
Davies, Sally	Chief Medical Officer	3 March 211	200,000-204,999

Name	Department/Organisation	Date in post	Salaries in £5,000 bands
Starmer, Keir	Crown Prosecution Service	1 November 2008	195,000-199,998
Singh, Dara	Job Centre Plus	2 November 2009	185,000-189,999
Bell, David	Dept for Education	1 January 2006	180,000-184,999
Chakrabarti, Suma	Ministry of Justice	10 December 2007	180,000-184,999
Ricketts, Peter	National Security Adviser	12 May 210	180,000-184,999
Brennan, Ursula	Ministry of Defence	29 October 2010	180,000-184,999
Devereux, Robert	Dept for Work and Pensions	11 January 2011	180,000-184,999
Fraser, Simon	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1 September 2010	180,000-184,999
Ghosh, Helen	Home Office	1 January 2011	180,000-184,999
Housden, Peter	Scottish Government	22 June 2010	175,000-179,999
Macpherson, Nick	HM Treasury	2 August 2005	175,000-179,999
Strathie, Lesley	HMRC (CEO)	10 November 2008	170,000-174,999
Homer, Lin	Department for Transport	10 January 2011	170,000-174,999
Kerslake, Bob	Dept for Communities and Local Government	1 November 2010	170,000-174,999
Sawers, John	Secret Intelligence Service	2 November 2009	165,000-169,999
Beddington, John	Chief Scientific Adviser—BIS	1 January 2008	165,000-169,999
Wallace, Moira	Dept of Energy and Climate Change	13 November 2008	165,000-169,999
Hartnett, Dave	2nd PS, HM Revenue and Customs	10 November 2008	160,000-164,999
Morgan, Gillian	Welsh Assembly Government	1 May 2008	160,000-164,999
Allan, Alex	Head of Intelligence Assessment and Chair of JIC	10 December 2007	160,000-164,999
Donnelly, Martin	Dept for Business, Innovations and Skills	21 October 2010	160,000-164,999
Hill, Bronwyn	Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	28 March 2011	160,000-164,999
Lowcock, Mark	Dept for International Development	9 June 2011	160,000-164,999
O'Brien, Una	Dept of Health	1 November 2010	160,000-164,999
Evans, Jonathan	Security Service	8 April 2007	155,000-159,999
Cunliffe, Jon	Head of International Economic Affairs and Europe—CO	26 June 2007	155,000-159,999
Jenkins, Paul	Treasury Solicitor	1 August 2006	155,000-159,999
Stephens, Jonathan	Dept for Culture Media and Sport	2 October 2006	155,000-159,999
Robinson, Bruce	Northern Ireland Civil Service	14 July 2008	150,000-154,999
Heywood, Jeremy	No.10	23 January 2008	150,000-154,999
Scholar, Tom	2nd Perm Sec, HM-Treasury	23 March 2009	150,000-154,999
Lobban, Iain	Government Communications Headquarters	28 August 2008	145,000-149,999
Welland, Mark	CSA—MOD (2nd Perm Sec)	7 April 2008	140,000-144,999

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Returning Officers: Expenditure

Andrew Selous: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much funding central Government provided for the payment of each returning officer for their services in conducting *(a)* elections and *(b)* the referendum on the alternative vote in May 2011. [62351]

Mr Harper: The maximum recoverable amounts which returning officers/counting officers are entitled to claim for their services and expenses in conducting national elections and referendums are set out in statutory orders which are made by the Minister prior to the date of the poll.

The relevant orders are the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010 and the Referendum on the Voting System (Counting Officers' and Regional Counting Officers Charges) Order 2011 which were made respectively for the 2010 UK parliamentary election and the referendum on the voting system which took place earlier this year. These can be found at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/830/contents/made

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1099/article/3/made

The overall maximum recoverable amounts for all returning officers and counting officers that could be claimed were £2,206,955 for the 2010 UK parliamentary election and £2,469,258 for the referendum on the voting system.

However, as the figures listed in the charges order are maximum recoverable amounts, we will only know the actual totals claimed once all claims have been received from returning officers/counting officers and settled for both polls.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK of the decisions reached at the 1115th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in respect of the voting rights of prisoners; and what position the UK representative at the meeting took on the resolution and decision made in respect of the execution of the Hirst (No.2) *v.* the United Kingdom judgement. [62543]

Mr Harper: The decision in respect of Hirst (No. 2) *v.* the United Kingdom was adopted by the Committee of Ministers at their 1115th meeting without discussion. It reflects the Court's judgments in that case and the case of Greens and MT *v.* the United Kingdom. As there

was no discussion or resolution adopted there was no opportunity for the UK delegate to state a position.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) with reference to the decision reached at the 1115th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in respect of the voting rights of prisoners and the execution of the Hirst (No.2) *v.* the United Kingdom judgement, whether he has begun preparation of the action plan to submit to the Committee of Ministers; and when he expects the action plan to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers; [62544]

(2) what his policy is on proposing amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to make provision to extend the franchise to prisoners; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [62648]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and I will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between the Government and each institution of the Council of Europe in respect of the voting rights of prisoners. [62545]

Mr Harper: Information submitted to the Committee of Ministers by the UK Government on prisoner voting rights is published on its website

http://www.coe.int/T/CM/home_en.asp

WALES

Policing and Justice

13. **Simon Hart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on policing and justice in Wales. [61876]

Mr David Jones: Effective policing and an efficient justice system in Wales are of utmost importance to this Government. My right hon. Friend and I have had regular discussions with Cabinet and ministerial colleagues on matters affecting policing and justice, and law and order in Wales.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many invoices received by her Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62482]

Mr David Jones: My Department has received the following number of invoices each month since May 2010:

	Paid on time	*Paid outside 10 days*	*Monetary value*
May 2010	60	1	689.47
June 2010	87	1	5,111.25
July 2010	84	1	11,074.19
August 2010	65	0	—
September 2010	53	1	609.12
October 2010	76	0	—
November 2010	87	1	465.30
December 2010	75	1	3,666.00
January 2011	78	0	—
February 2011	77	0	—
March 2011	64	0	—
April 2011	95	2	242.39
May 2011	52	0	—

Devolution

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister on the remit of a commission on devolution and funding for Wales. [61867]

Mrs Gillan: I refer the hon. Gentleman, to my answer to the right hon. Member for Torfaen (Paul Murphy) earlier today.

Energy: River Severn

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on that Department's feasibility report on tidal energy options in the Severn estuary; and if she will make a statement. [62003]

Mrs Gillan: I have discussed the feasibility report on tidal energy in the Severn estuary with Ministers from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

While the study does not set out a strategic case for public investment in a tidal energy scheme in the Severn estuary at this time, it does not rule out a barrage scheme as an option in the future, or rule out consideration of any proposals that may come forward from private investors.

Renewable Energy

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on the research and development of renewable sources of energy in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [62000]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with the First Minister on energy policy and I welcome the fact that Wales is playing a key role in finding new and innovative low carbon technologies to help us meet the challenges we face.

Wales has a number of excellent research and development facilities engaged in research on renewable energy.

The approval by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for Tidal Energy Limited's 1.2 MW 'Deltastream' test device off the coast of Pembrokeshire is a further indication of the high quality research that is going on in Wales.

Wind Power

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Government on planning powers for on-shore wind generation projects in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [62001]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with the First Minister about issues that affect Wales, including energy policy.

The current planning system provides a streamlined regime that minimises delays and ensures investor confidence.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Timber

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the amount of wood biomass which was burnt in each year since 2007; what total subsidy was provided for biomass under the renewables obligation in each year since 2007; and how much such subsidy will be provided in each year from 2011 to 2020. [62692]

Gregory Barker: Biomass generators reported to Ofgem that some 2.14 million tonnes of wood were combusted for energy in 2009-10. This total consists of those feedstocks identified by generators as being sourced from forestry wood, recycled wood, wood and miscanthus blend, or unspecified wood. Figures for 2010-11 are expected to be published by Ofgem during the summer. Comparable information is not available before April 2009.

Regarding the total subsidies provided for biomass (both wood and non wood sources) under the renewables obligation (RO) I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 1294W, regarding incentives for biomass projects between 2002-03 to 2009-10.

The number of ROCs issued in 2010-11 is not yet confirmed by Ofgem but preliminary reports suggest just under 10 million renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) were issued for all biomass technologies under the RO last year (ie dedicated, CHP, co-firing, landfill gas, sewage gas and advanced conversion technologies). The value of the 2010-11 RO buyout price is £36.99 giving a total value of some £370 million for 2010-11 biomass generation.

In terms of future subsidies, we anticipate that new dedicated biomass capacity in 2011-12 could result in an additional 0.8 million ROCs of support, increasing to around 3.2 million ROCs in 2012-13. Assuming the same ROC value as 2010-11, this would represent additional support of £29.6 million in 2011-12 and £118.4 million in 2012-13.

It is not possible to estimate the total support that will be provided to biomass under the RO beyond April 2013. RO support rates for biomass electricity from April 2013-March 2017 will be decided later this year, following consultation this summer. Biomass electricity generators can also benefit from support under forthcoming electricity market reform arrangements.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62726]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has awarded the following contracts to the Capita group companies since May 2010. The amounts shown represent payments made to date and not the full life costs which are not available:

Capita Business Services Limited: two contracts with individual payment values to date of £3,855 and £42,855. The total net worth is £46,710.

Capita Resourcing Limited: four contracts with individual payment values to date of £40,824, £1,225, £47,947 and £30,704. The total net worth to date is £120,700.

Capita Symons Limited: one contract with payments to date of £37,496.

Capita Health Solutions: one contract with payments to date of £254.

Carbon Emissions: Industry

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what types of mitigation measures he is considering to protect energy-intensive industries from the effect of carbon price support in addition to those announced in the 2011 Budget; [62611]

(2) when he expects to conclude his Department's consultation with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and energy intensive industries on protecting those industries from the effect of a carbon floor price. [62612]

Gregory Barker: The Government are considering a wide range of mitigation measures to ensure British industry retains its competitiveness during the transition to a low-carbon economy. We expect to conclude our joint analysis with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in time to announce a package of measures by the end of the year.

Electricity Generation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 103W, on electricity generation, when he expects to announce whether the electricity market reform proposals will be subject to the control framework for DECC-levy funded spending. [60263]

Charles Hendry: If the EMR proposals are classified as tax and spend and yet are deficit neutral then they will fall within the control framework. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the classification of transactions, and provides the final decision on classification where Government requests this or where it decides it needs to consider a policy. A final decision would only be made once the full details of a policy have been confirmed by Government.

In some cases the Government does treat policies as tax and/or spending ahead of a formal ONS decision. This would happen where the Government judges it can have reasonable confidence regarding the classification. In the case of the EMR proposals it remains too early for Government to make any such judgment, and/or determine whether it will request a formal ONS classification decision, as the full details of the policy are still to be confirmed.

Electricity Industry: Theft

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number of metal thefts or attempted metal thefts from the electricity industry in each region, *(b)* cost of repairs arising from such theft or attempted theft, *(c)* number of fatalities and injuries of people engaging in such theft, *(d)* number of prosecutions for such theft or attempted theft, *(e)* number of convictions for such theft or attempted theft and *(f)* fines levied by the regulator in each region and for each energy supplier as a result of loss of electricity supply due to such theft or attempted theft since 2005. [62603]

Charles Hendry: The Department does not collect information concerning: the number of instances; the cost of repairs; the number of fatalities or injuries; the number of prosecutions or convictions or the value of the fines levied by Ofgem, resulting from metal thefts or attempted metal thefts experienced by electricity network operators.

The Energy Networks Association on behalf of the energy sector manages a Security Incident Reporting System (SIRS) database that collects data on security incidents experienced by electricity network operators. The vast majority of incidents recorded relate to metal theft but can also include battery theft, vandalism, suspicious persons and suspicious vehicles. The SIRS database was commissioned on 1 September 2009. Between this date and 31 January 2011 there have been 4,925 recorded security incidents.

Energy: Finance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding for energy sector research and development his Department has provided to the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [60146]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change provided £50.8 million towards energy research and development during the financial year 2010-11. £1 million of this went to various non-private sector bodies such as universities, Research Councils and the Forestry Commission. The remaining £49.8 million was spent with the private sector.

Energy: Meters

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to establish the stakeholder group on the operational aspects of smart meter roll-out; what its remit will be; and how many members the group will have. [62230]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise that a variety of operational issues could arise in individual cases during the rollout of smart meters. Most of these issues are well understood and are dealt with by industry as part of business as usual activities. The Government will ensure that the scale and nature of these issues are well understood by all parties and will seek assurance that appropriate plans and processes are put in place to address them.

The March 2011 Government Response to the Prospectus Consultation proposed to establish a stakeholder group to facilitate the identification and discussion of these issues. We are considering the terms of reference and membership for this group and will publish further details shortly.

European Project Bond Initiative

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the European Project Bond Initiative. [58891]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's discussions with the European Commission on the EU's Project Bond Initiative are led by HM Treasury. Officials from the Department have held technical discussions with officials from the Commission and from the European Investment Bank on the financial aspects of the proposal.

The Government are willing to consider a greater role for the EIB and the private sector in relation to infrastructure investment, in order to deliver a smaller EU budget overall.

Garages and Petrol Stations

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information his Department holds on the number of independent filling stations in the UK in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2010; [62650]

(2) what the Government's policy is on the future of the independent petrol and diesel filling station sector. [62655]

Charles Hendry: Data held by DECC indicate that there were 7,310 and 5,312 independently owned fuel retailer sites in 2000 and 2010 respectively.

Independent forecourt operators make a significant contribution to ensuring the availability of fuel across the UK.

There is a diverse, open and competitive fuel retail market which is regulated by the Office of Fair Trading, through enforcement of competition law, ensuring that markets work well for the benefit of consumers.

Natural Gas

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the *(a)* number of wells required for commercial extraction of the same amount of (i) shale gas and (ii) conventional gas, *(b)* risks presented by contaminated

and abandoned sites where shale gas production is stopped and *(c)* availability of mechanisms to mitigate such risks; and if he will make a statement. [62810]

Charles Hendry: Shale gas has not as yet been commercially proven in the UK and it is too early to make useful estimates of the relative numbers of wells which would be required as compared to conventional gas.

There is a robust regulatory regime in place administered by DECC, the Health and Safety Executive, the respective environment agencies, and local planning authorities to ensure that drilling sites are properly managed during the exploration and production phase and are properly decommissioned and left environmentally safe once development and production has ceased.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average volume of *(a)* water, *(b)* chemical additives and *(c)* waste water generated in a hydraulic fracturing well for shale gas; whether he plans to (i) prohibit and (ii) require public disclosure of the use of any chemicals used for hydraulic fracturing; and if he will make a statement. [62811]

Charles Hendry: Operations, including water volumes, are dependent on the parameters of a specific project. There is only one active shale gas exploration project taking place in the UK at present—Cuadrilla's operations in Lancashire. For this project I understand that Cuadrilla anticipates using approximately 1,600 cubic metres of water for each hydraulic fracture operation.

The hydraulic fracturing fluids used to date by Cuadrilla are made up as follows: fresh water and sand—99.96% and polyacrylamide friction reducers—0.04%. Other potential additives include hydrochloric acid, typically at a concentration of 0.125%, or biocide at a concentration of 0.005% if required to purify the local water supply.

The amount of waste water generated will again be project dependent. Issues surrounding public disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracture are a matter for the respective environment agencies. Cuadrilla publishes all of its chemicals on its website.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to implement a moratorium on shale gas activity in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [62814]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a long history of onshore gas exploration. The range of techniques employed in shale gas drilling and testing operations is broadly similar to those used for orthodox gas production, and there is a strong regulatory safety and environmental regime in place administered by the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities and the relevant environmental agencies to ensure that potential risks to safety or the environment are properly managed. On the basis of available information, the Department sees no need for a moratorium on shale gas activities in the UK.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Blackpool North and Cleveleys of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 549-50W, on natural gas: Fylde, whether future applications for hydraulic fracturing operations for the extraction of shale gas will also be subject to a geomechanical study, along with further work by the British Geological Survey and relevant academic institutions, before any operations are permitted; and if he will make a statement. [62819]

Charles Hendry: The geomechanical study currently being carried out is looking specifically at the geological and seismic properties of the rock strata and shale in and around Poulton-le-Fylde, and any linkages between the recent seismic tremors and hydraulic fracturing operations in the area. The study and its implications will be reviewed before any decision on the resumption of these hydraulic fracture operations is made.

The information requirements for the consideration of future fracturing operations will depend on the findings of the current study and on the geological setting of any work proposed.

Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the anaerobic digestion sector since *(a)* publication of the proposed tariff changes in March 2011 and *(b)* confirmation on 9 June 2011 of the tariff changes to take effect from 1 August 2011. [61215]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers and officials have had discussions with various anaerobic digestion (AD) producers and installers, gas transporters, farming and industry trade associations, research bodies and Members of Parliament. A range of issues have been covered, including advice on getting started with AD; problems with injecting biomethane into the gas grid; the drafting of the AD Strategy and Action Plan, which was published earlier this month and sets out the actions to be taken to overcome the key barriers to deployment; and the consultations on the Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) Scheme. Following the publication of the Government's decision on the fast-track review of the FITs scheme, officials contacted key stakeholders to explain the decision on the tariff changes.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Tooting

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many interim antisocial behaviour orders are to be withdrawn in Tooting constituency under her proposals to end such measures. [62126]

James Brokenshire: The antisocial behaviour order data collection records details of full antisocial behaviour orders issued only. It is not possible to provide data relating to interim antisocial behaviour orders. We have recently consulted on changes to the tools and powers to tackle antisocial behaviour—including the antisocial behaviour order—and are currently considering the responses. The details of how the new tools and powers will work will be set out when bringing forward legislative

proposals following that consultation. In the interim, powers to obtain and use antisocial behaviour orders remain in full force and effect. Practitioners should continue to use such powers where appropriate.

Arrests

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for a qualifying offence under section 7 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 between 2006-07 and 2009-10; and how many such people were charged with an offence. [62199]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Section 7 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 provision was brought into effect on 7 March 2011.

It is not possible to separately identify arrests for qualifying offences under section 7 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 from data held centrally.

Asylum: EU Countries

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will offer support to the governments of countries of southern Europe to improve their administrative capacity to deal with asylum cases; and if she will make a statement. [62681]

Damian Green: The Government are committed to offering the kind of support to which my hon. Friend refers.

In the last six months, we have sent a number of asylum experts to Greece as members of EU teams coordinated by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). Three further UK experts are due to be deployed to Greece in the next few months under the auspices of EASO to support the delivery of improvements to the asylum system there. Separately, the UK has given £238,500 to UNHCR for projects related to asylum reform in Greece.

We have also recently assisted Malta with language analysis to help their authorities determine asylum seekers' countries of origin more effectively, and have made clear both to Malta and Italy our willingness to provide further practical support should it be necessary.

Burglary: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of burglary were recorded in Warrington North constituency in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [62369]

James Brokenshire: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales are not available at constituency level. Figures are collected at community safety partnership (CSP) level, which broadly equate to local authority areas.

The Warrington North constituency comes within the Warrington CSP and the requested figures on recorded burglaries are given in the table. Local police recorded crime statistics broken down by offence group and local authority area are available on the Home Office website via the following web address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/crime/crime-statistics-internet/

Numbers of burglary offences recorded by the police in the Warrington CSP, 2008-10

Offence	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Burglary in a dwelling	815	879	723
Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	850	746	779
Total burglary	1,665	1,625	1,502

Crime Prevention: Business

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the number of small businesses affected by crime. [61998]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office co-chair the National Retail Crime Steering Group, the national partnership to tackle retail crime. Membership is drawn from across the retail sector, but includes small business representation from the Federation of Small Businesses and the Association of Convenience Stores in particular.

The Steering Group is delivering a work plan focused on the key crime priorities that affect retailers. This includes strengthening local partnerships between businesses and law enforcement agencies; taking steps to develop safe working and trading environments; supporting designing out crime techniques and working with the criminal justice system to ensure that effective sanctions and deterrents to retail crime are available.

The National Retail Crime Steering Group also considers business sector interaction with the Government's reform programme, including the recent consultation on "A More Effective Response to Antisocial Behaviour" and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Crime Prevention: Young People

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has allocated to the Positive Futures programme in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* the preceding three years and *(c)* the remaining years of the comprehensive spending review period. [61787]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The total Home Office allocation for the Positive Futures programme in 2011-12 is £5,707,000.

The allocations for the preceding three years were as follows:

	£
2010-11	5,999,000
2009-10	5,999,000
2008-09	5,988,469

These figures include funding for the management and monitoring and analysis services.

Crimes of Violence: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to tackle violent crime in the London borough of Havering. [62111]

James Brokenshire: Operational decisions regarding violent crime in Havering are for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the London borough of Havering to agree between them.

Cybercrime

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the UK of cyber crime. [62659]

Mrs May *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The Cost of Cyber Crime, a report published in February 2011 by the Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance in the Cabinet Office, in partnership with Detica, estimates the most likely cost to the UK economy as £27 billion per annum.

Demonstrations: Buckingham Palace

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had with *(a)* the Metropolitan Police and *(b)* the Royal Parks Agency on protests Republic plans to hold outside Buckingham Palace. [62032]

Nick Herbert: There were no such discussions with the Metropolitan police or the Royal Parks Agency about the protest by Republic on 25 June 2011.

Domestic Violence: EU Law

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 653W, on domestic violence, which articles of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence she supports in their present form. [62397]

Lynne Featherstone: Pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 653W, the process of considering the articles is continuing and we are not yet in a position to make the final decision on signature and ratification. We are reviewing whether the requirements of the Convention are best placed to support our existing work to tackle violence against women and girls and domestic violence in the UK.

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of young people regularly using substances which may result in legal highs; [61736]

(2) what recent research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on users of substances which may provide legal highs. [61738]

James Brokenshire: Preliminary findings from the 2009-10 British Crime Survey (BCS) 'Drug Misuse Declared' report (based on six months data) showed that 1.2% of young people aged 16 to 24-years-old used 'Spice' in the last year (or another synthetic cannabinoid), 1.4% used BZP (Benzylpiperazine) and 0.5% used GBL/GHB (Gammabutyrolactone/Gammahydroxybutrate).

It is important to note that these substances were brought under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in December 2009, part way through the reporting period. The results were published in July 2010 and are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1310/hosb1310

Estimates based on a full year of data for all 'legal high'-type drugs included in the BCS (including mephedrone) will be available in the 'Drugs Misuse Declared 2010-11' report, to be published in July 2011.

The Home Office has not commissioned or evaluated any research on the effects on users of any new psychoactive substances (termed 'legal highs'). The Home Office has requested that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) consider a number of individual new psychoactive substances (and where appropriate, the family of related substances). The ACMD reports have made an assessment of the harms of these substances to users based on available evidence as well as recommendation for their control under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/acmd/reports- research/

Extradition: USA

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the operation of the UK-US Extradition Treaty. [61960]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* I refer the right hon. Member to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 521W. The US-UK extradition treaty is one of the matters being considered by the extradition review panel. The panel is expected to report back to the Government by the end of the summer 2011.

Fixed Penalties

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were rearrested after the issue of a *(a)* fixed penalty notice, *(b)* non-endorsable fixed penalty notice and *(c)* penalty notice for disorder within six months of the issue of the notice in each financial year since 2007-08; and in how many such cases the individual was subsequently dealt with (i) by the courts and (ii) by the issue of a further penalty notice. [61416]

Nick Herbert: Information on re-arrests is not collected centrally.

The Home Office holds statistics on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for motoring offences and their outcomes. The Ministry of Justice holds statistics on fixed penalty notices for disorder.

From these data, it is not possible to separately identify persons issued with further fixed penalty notices after an original offence.

Published data on notices issued and outcomes, taken from the Home Office bulletin 'Police Powers and Procedures 2009-10' and the Ministry of Justice bulletin 'Criminal Statistics, England and Wales', are available in the Library of the House. For convenience, copies of the most recent published data for both types (including

those unpaid fines pursued by the courts), from 2007 onwards (calendar year) are provided in the tables.

Fixed penalty notices for motoring offences by result, 2007 to 2009

Outcome	2007	2008	2009
Paid within 28 days	1,796,779	1,563,456	1,365,238
Payment accepted after 28 days	581,446	510,719	501,736
Fine registration certificate issued[1]	200,650	185,667	171,128
Process issued[2]	6,228	6,140	6,355
No further action taken	52,407	44,069	40,535
Outcome not finalised	11,677	9,070	6,251
Total notices	2,649,187	2,319,121	2,091,243

[1] Unpaid fines increased by 50% after deadline is passed.
[2] Unpaid fines referred to courts for prosecution.

Table 2.4: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by age group and year, 2005-09[1] England and Wales

Year and age group	Number issued	Total paid in full	%	Of those paid: Paid in full within 21 days	%	Paid in full outside 21 days	%
2005							
16-17 year olds	12,454	7,024	56	5,182	42	1,842	15
18 and over	134,027	70,223	52	51,641	39	18,582	14
All ages	146,481	77,247	53	56,823	39	20,424	14
2006							
16-17 year olds	19,598	11,096	57	8,135	42	2,961	15
18 and over	181,599	93,450	51	68,456	38	24,994	14
All ages	201,197	104,546	52	76,591	38	27,955	14
2007							
16-17 year olds	19,246	11,096	58	8,437	44	2,659	14
18 and over	188,298	95,829	51	73,696	39	22,133	12
All ages	207,544	106,925	52	82,133	40	24,792	12
2008							
16-17 year olds	14,497	8,368	58	6,371	44	1,997	14
18 and over	161,667	82,921	51	64,873	40	18,048	11
All ages	176,164	91,289	52	71,244	40	20,045	11
2009							
16-17 year olds	11,737	6,961	59	5,383	46	1,578	13
18 and over	158,656	83,155	52	64,451	41	18,704	12
All ages	170,393	90,116	53	69,834	41	20,282	12

Year and age group	Other outcomes: Fine registered	%	Court hearing requested	%	PND cancelled	%	Potential prosecution	%	Outcome unknown	%
2005										
16-17 year olds	4,549	37	144	1	266	2	157	1	314	3
18 and over	57,630	43	1,444	1	2,171	2	1,648	1	911	1
All ages	62,179	42	1,588	1	2,437	2	1,805	1	1,225	1
2006										
16-17 year olds	7,598	39	125	1	486	2	250	1	43	0
18 and over	80,198	44	1,355	1	3,782	2	2,460	1	354	0
All ages	87,796	44	1,480	1	4,268	2	2,710	1	397	0
2007										
16-17 year olds	7,120	37	99	1	638	3	289	2	4	0
18 and over	82,937	44	1,154	1	4,611	2	3,691	2	76	0
All ages	90,057	43	1,253	1	5,249	3	3,980	2	80	0
2008										
16-17 year olds	5,474	38	82	1	362	2	205	1	6	0

Year and age group	Fine registered	%	Court hearing requested	%	PND cancelled	%	Potential prosecution	%	Outcome unknown	%
					Other outcomes					
18 and over	70,681	44	980	1	3,727	2	3,309	2	49	0
All ages	76,155	43	1,062	1	4,089	2	3,514	2	55	0
2009										
16-17 year olds	3,898	33	61	1	297	3	509	4	11	0
18 and over	63,748	40	836	1	3,889	2	6,748	4	280	0
All ages	67,646	40	897	1	4,186	2	7,257	4	291	0

[1] Percentages may not add up due to rounding

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 191W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what *(a)* representations and *(b)* correspondence she has received on extension of the transitional arrangements for payment of benefits to migrant workers from EU accession states. [62055]

Damian Green: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions' earlier reply addressed the question of benefits. The transitional arrangements to which that reply referred are concerned specifically with access to the labour market. The labour market restrictions currently applied to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals may be extended to the end of 2013 if to do otherwise would result in serious labour market disturbance. The Government have asked the Migration Advisory Committee to review the labour market case for maintaining the restrictions and it will be appropriate for the Committee to consider any representations which are relevant to its terms of reference.

Human Trafficking: EU Law

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date she plans to implement each requirement of the EU Directive on Human Trafficking. [61788]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The Government are applying to the European Commission to opt in to the EU Directive on human trafficking. Subject to its acceptance, we will implement the requirements of the directive within two years.

Immigration

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for immigration policy of the absence of a standard definition of habitual residence. [62056]

Damian Green: Access to income-related benefits administered by the Department for Work and Pensions is subject to the habitual residence test. This includes meeting the requirement to have a right to reside in the UK. This test is intended to exclude from these benefits those who do not have a settled intention to remain in the UK. In addition, those subject to immigration control who have no access to public funds are prevented from accessing income-related and non-contributory benefits by section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

There is no evidence that the absence of a standard definition of habitual residence has implications for immigration policy. Nevertheless, the UK Border Agency works in cooperation with relevant Government Departments, including the Department for Work and Pensions, in managing the impact of immigration on public services.

I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, the right hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 192W. The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for conducting checks on habitual residence.

Knives: Crime

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have received funding allocated for the prevention of knife crime since April 2011; and how much funding was allocated in each case. [61785]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* A total of £3.75 million is being made available over two years, from April 2011, to three police forces areas where more than half of the country's knife crime occurs—London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. In London, the money is to be paid via the Greater London Authority.

Metals: Theft

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made in developing a plan to tackle the issue of metal theft; and if she will make a statement. [58840]

James Brokenshire: The Government are concerned at the extent of metal theft and the serious impact it can have on the national infrastructure and on local communities. The Home Office is working closely with the police (through the ACPO Metal Theft Working Group) to tackle this criminality and to reduce the stolen goods market that drives it. We are currently exploring what other action can be taken to reduce metal theft.

National Crime Agency

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the introduction of a Border Police Command within the National Crime Agency will involve a transfer of responsibilities from the UK Border Agency. [62790]

Mrs May *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The National Crime Agency Plan sets out the Government's plan for creating a Border Policing Command.

Police: Borders

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on the Government's plans for a Border Police Force. [62299]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The National Crime Agency (NCA) Plan sets out the Government's plan for creating a Border Policing Command.

The NCA Plan can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/nca-creation-plan

Police: Helicopters

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police helicopters have been available to police forces *(a)* in each year since 2010 and *(b)* in 2011 to date. [62296]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* In 2010, the police forces of England and Wales had access to 31 helicopters operating from 29 bases. In 2011, there are currently 30 helicopters operating from 28 bases.

Third Sector

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nature is of the *(a)* one-stop services and *(b)* wrap-around programmes funded by her Department and provided by charities in the last three years. [60578]

Damian Green *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* The information is as follows:

(a) One-Stop Service (OSS). This service involves the provision of independent advice by voluntary sector organisations to asylum seekers and refugees within the UK.

The OSS focuses on providing assistance to asylum seekers who either are or have been supported by the UK Border Agency. This is achieved both through direct service provision by the Voluntary Sector organisations involved and indirectly by them facilitating capacity-building in other organisations which supply services to asylum seekers and refugees.

OSS services include:

Initial Assessment Functions. This relates to determining the requirements of the asylum seeker/refugee and the most appropriate action to be followed thereafter.

Support and Advice Functions

This will include reporting to the UK Border Agency any relevant change in an asylum seekers' circumstances, assistance to asylum seekers' in completing applications for financial support, assistance in responding to requests for information made by the UK Border Agency, finding reputable legal help and accessing statutory and other voluntary services.

Move-On Functions

For those receiving refugee status supplying impartial advice to such refugees about the options available to them including, but not limited to, assistance with accessing statutory support such as housing provision.

Capacity Building Functions

Establishing what services are being provided regionally and working with other organisations to ensure that services are delivered in a co-ordinated way.

Addressing any gaps in service provision.

Developing local community support and social cohesion by supporting voluntary services to asylum seekers, supporting community and Refugee Community Organisations. Assisting in the introduction and/or enhancement of non UK Border Agency funded support and advice services for asylum seekers in the region through the provision of information, education and training and by developing partnerships.

(b) Wrap-Around Services

This service involves the supply of advice and assistance to asylum seekers who require support in the form of accommodation and financial assistance.

It involves the performance of a number of processes connected with an asylum seeker's stay in Initial Accommodation. These include:

Assisting asylum seekers in the completion of applications for support. This is in connection with support for both accommodation and financial assistance which is provided by separate providers and UK Border Agency respectively.

Briefing asylum seekers

This includes an orientation briefing which explains asylum and support processes and the rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers in the UK. This is supported through the provision of UK Border Agency paper material and a dispersal briefing (supplying information connected to the asylum seeker's long stay/dispersal accommodation)

Question and Answer/Problem Solving Sessions

These provide information about asylum and support-related matters and also information about processes relating for example to racial harassment, domestic violence and accessing health advice.

Supporting UK Border Agency processes

This facilitates the different processes (asylum, legal assistance, health) that asylum seekers are required to engage with while in Initial Accommodation.

Annual Workplans are submitted by the Voluntary Sector organisations providing the services. These Workplans detail how the above requirements will be met. The UK Border Agency monitors actual performance against plan and feeds back the results to the relevant Voluntary Sector partners.

HEALTH

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

Neil Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to encourage NHS trusts to apply to take part in the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme; [62409]

(2) what provision the NHS has made for screening of men aged over 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms. [62410]

Mr Simon Burns: Since its announcement in 2008, the Department has funded the implementation of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme and remains committed to ensuring it is fully implemented across England by the end of March 2013.

"The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12" sets out expectations for the NHS to support Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening. Specifically it states that primary care trusts are expected to:

continue screening for programmes that are currently operational;

implement screening as planned for the 2011-12 phases; and

develop a robust implementation plan for 2012-13, ensuring surgery providers fulfil the requirements for implementation of screening.

Following the review of evidence by the UK National Screening Committee, it concluded that screening should be offered routinely to 65-year-old men, although men over 65 could self refer into the programme. All local programmes are accepting self referrals from men over 65 and a large number of these have been screened following successful local publicity initiatives supported by the national programme.

Baby Care Units: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he plans to provide to existing neonatal networks in *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15. [62372]

Anne Milton: Funding for neonatal networks is not set centrally by the Department It is for the national health service to determine how best to allocate funding, including funding for neonatal services.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many invoices received by his Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62484]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department paid 204,519 invoices in the period from 1 May 2010 to 31 May 2011. Of these, 1,070 (0.52%) were paid later than the contracted 30 days. The total value of invoices paid late in the period was £44.8 million.

General Practitioners: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are per head of population in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Greenwich, *(c)* Bromley and *(d)* West Kent primary care trust area. [62430]

Mr Simon Burns: Data for the four primary care trusts (PCTs) as requested, as at 30 September 2010, are shown in the following table. This excludes retainers and registrars.

	All general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars) headcount[1]	*All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) headcount per 100,000 population*
Bexley Care Trust	118	52.2
Bromley PCT	215	69.3
Greenwich Teaching PCT	157	69.4
West Kent PCT	415	61.1

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components.

Notes:

1. Data as at 30 September 2010.
2. GP per head of population figures have been calculated using Office for National Statistics resident population estimates.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

1. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
2. Office for National Statistics, 2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based), Adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology

Hampshire and Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which sites his Department and its sponsored bodies own within the boundaries of *(a)* Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, *(b)* East Hampshire District Council, *(c)* Eastleigh Borough Council, *(d)* Fareham Borough Council, *(e)* Gosport Borough Council, *(f)* Hart District Council and *(g)* Havant Borough Council; [62315]

(2) which sites his Department and its sponsored bodies own within the boundaries of *(a)* New Forest District Council, *(b)* Rushmoor Borough Council, *(c)* Test Valley Borough Council, *(d)* Winchester City Council, *(e)* Portsmouth City Council, *(f)* Southampton City Council and *(g)* Isle of Wight Council; [62316]

(3) which sites his Department and its sponsored bodies own within the boundaries of *(a)* Adur District Council, *(b)* Arun District Council, *(c)* Chichester

District Council, *(d)* Crawley Borough Council, *(e)* Horsham District Council, *(f)* Mid Sussex District Council and *(g)* Worthing Borough Council. [62317]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department or its sponsored bodies are the freehold owners of properties in the council areas are as follows:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council:

St Michael's Hospice, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke

New Forest District Council:

Land at Michigan Way, Totton

Southampton City Council:

Southampton Blood Centre, Coxford Road, Southampton

The Department or its sponsored bodies do not own properties in the other council areas referred to.

Health and Social Care Bill

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legislative precedents he considered to inform his decision to propose the recommittal of certain parts of the Health and Social Care Bill to the Public Bill Committee. [62323]

Mr Simon Burns: Parliament agreed to a partial recommittal of the Health and Social Care Bill. I refer the hon. Member to my speech of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 198.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he held with the Prime Minister on the proposed recommittal of some of the clauses of the Health and Social Care Bill to the Public Bill Committee prior to the Bill's recommittal. [62518]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health meets with the Prime Minister on a regular basis to discuss a range of issues.

Health Services: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of health care professionals who will *(a)* retire, *(b)* take voluntary redundancy and *(c)* lose their jobs in (i) London, (ii) the London Borough of Newham and (iii) West Ham constituency in the next 12 months. [62374]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to approach the organisations concerned for the information requested.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of GP consortia on services for those with learning disabilities. [62708]

Paul Burstow: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 Impact Assessment summarises the benefits of handing commissioning responsibility to clinical commissioning groups. General practitioners (GPs) see 800,000 people a day/300 million people a year and play a pivotal role in helping to coordinate national health service care. The GP role is particularly prominent for people with learning disabilities, and in helping patients to access wider or more specialised NHS services through the thousands of referral decisions they make on a daily basis.

Home Care Services: Older People

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to respond to the Equality and Human Rights Commission report on care for people aged over 65 in England; and if he will make a statement. [62340]

Paul Burstow: There can be no place for poor quality care in care services. Dignity and respect are the cornerstones of good quality care.

We welcome the interim findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission report on home care. We will respond to the final report when it is published in November this year. This report and others will help drive up standards in care and expose bad practice.

We will publish a White Paper setting out the Government's plans for reforming social care—this will include measures designed to improve the quality of care and support services.

Maternity Services

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of midwife-led birthing centres; and if he will make a statement. [62417]

Anne Milton: Midwife-led birthing centres provide care for women assessed as being at low risk of complications. The Department has commissioned the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit to undertake a research study, entitled 'Birthplace', which will compare the outcomes of births planned at home, in different types of midwifery unit, and in hospital units with obstetric services. This is a three-year study, with a report expected in autumn 2011.

Maternity Services: High Peak

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the engagement and consultation on the future of the Corbar Birthing Unit in High Peak will be *(a)* open to and *(b)* responsive to the views submitted by the local community; [62416]

(2) how many mothers were transferred from the Corbar Birthing Unit in High Peak to other hospitals due to complications during birth in each of the last five years. [62419]

Anne Milton: The information requested on how many mothers were transferred from the Corbar Birthing Unit in High Peak to other hospitals due to complications during birth in each of the last five years is not collected by the Department.

While consultation on national health service reconfiguration is a matter for the local NHS, the Secretary of State for Health has outlined new strengthened criteria he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet. All service reconfiguration proposals must:

demonstrate support from general practitioner commissioners;

ensure arrangements for public and patient engagement, including local authorities, should be further strengthened;

ensure greater clarity about the clinical evidence base underpinning proposals; and

take into account the need to develop and support patient choice.

Mental Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of cognitive behavioural therapy on the underlying causes of anxiety and depression in children and adults. [62525]

Paul Burstow: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is funding a range of research on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for anxiety and depression in children and adults. For example, the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme is funding a £2.6 million trial of brief psychodynamic psychotherapy, CBT and treatment as usual in adolescents with moderate to severe depression attending routine child and adolescent mental health clinics.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the change in funding in real terms for mental health services in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency in the next four years; [62373]

(2) how much funding was allocated to mental health services in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency in the last four years. [62376]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held centrally.

It is currently for primary care trusts to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. PCTs recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area.

The hon. Member may, therefore, wish to contact the chief executive of Newham PCT for further information about PCT funding for local mental health services.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health professionals were employed by the NHS in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London borough of Newham and *(c)* West Ham constituency in the last four years. [62375]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected in the format requested.

The following table provides the numbers of medical staff within the psychiatry specialty group and non-medical qualified nursing and scientific, therapeutic and technical staff within psychiatry areas of work in the London Strategic Health Authority area, Newham University Hospital National Health Service Trust and Newham Primary Care Trust (PCT) for each of the last four years.

Hospital and Community Health Services medical staff within the psychiatry specialty group and non-medical qualified nursing and scientific, therapeutic and technical staff within psychiatry areas of work in England, London Strategic Health Authority area and organisations in West Ham constituency—as at 30 September each year

Headcount

		2007	2008	2009	2010[1]
England	Medical staff in the psychiatry group of specialties	9,554	9,739	9,934	9,731
	Qualified nursing staff[2]	56,117	56,310	55,851	54,145
	Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[3]	8,452	8,889	9,848	10,195
London	Medical staff in the psychiatry group of specialties	2,329	2,348	2,408	2,377
	Qualified nursing staff[2]	10,631	10,576	10,012	9,667
	Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[3]	2,485	2,639	3,033	3,096
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	Medical staff in the psychiatry group of specialties	1	2	1	2
	Qualified nursing staff[2]	1	1	0	0
	Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[3]	0	0	0	0
Newham PCT	Medical staff in the psychiatry group of specialties	0	0	0	0
	Qualified nursing staff[2]	6	7	7	4
	Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[3]	40	35	36	29

[1] The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the census publication at the following address:
www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf
[2] Community Psychiatry, Other Psychiatry, Community Learning Disabilities, Other Learning Disabilities qualified nursing staff.
[3] Clinical psychology, Psycho-therapy qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff.
Data Quality:
The national health service information centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect or missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Sources:
1. The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
2. The National Health Service Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Monitor

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish details of the future role of Monitor. [62390]

Mr Simon Burns: On 23 June 2011 the Government tabled proposed amendments to the Health and Social Care Bill in relation to the future role of Monitor. This followed the Government's response to the Future Forum report. There will be opportunity for further debate and scrutiny of Monitor's role during the Public Bill Committee.

NHS Future Forum

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process he followed to appoint the independent members of the NHS Future Forum. [62324]

Mr Simon Burns: In order to take full advantage of the natural break in the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Government assembled an independent advisory panel—the NHS Future Forum—at pace.

The guiding principle for appointments to the NHS Future Forum was to ensure that, while not designed to be a representative body, its membership included a wide range of different voices from and around the national health service.

While members brought their own professional expertise, their task was to engage with staff, patients, communities and organisations from across the NHS, to reflect on that engagement and to make recommendations for improvements to the legislation where necessary.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* time, *(b)* date and *(c)* location was of each event attended by (i) Ministers and (ii) members of the NHS Future Forum as part of the NHS listening exercise. [62852]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the listening exercise, the ministerial team, along with members of the NHS Future Forum, have attended 252 listening events, to listen to views of the public, staff and patients. In addition to these events, Ministers and Future Forum members will have listened to many other individuals through their own networks and through informal conversations; we do not however have records of all such engagements.

A copy of the NHS listening exercise table of events has been placed in the Library.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his contribution of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 646, on NHS Future Forum, whether the principles and rules for co-operation and competition include the preferred provider model. [62871]

Mr Simon Burns: The Principles and Rules for Co-operation and Competition (PRCC) were revised in July 2010 to make clear the Government's commitment to any qualified provider. Principle five of the PRCC sets out that:

"commissioners and providers should promote patient choice, including—where appropriate—choice of Any Willing Provider and ensure that patients have accurate, reliable and accessible information to exercise more choice and control over their health care."

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the potential effects of his planned reforms of the NHS on the *(a)* pay and *(b)* terms and conditions of NHS staff. [62278]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 1 January 2011 there have been five parliamentary questions relating to the potential effects of the planned reforms on the pay or terms and conditions of national health service staff.

We are not able to say how many items of correspondence we have received as the Department does not index correspondence at a level to allow this. Departmental records show that, since 1 January 2011, we have received over 3,500 items of correspondence about the modernisation of the NHS. This figure represents correspondence received by the Department's central correspondence team only.

The Department is also working in partnership with NHS employers and trade unions to develop a HR Framework to support the implementation of the reforms.

NHS: Future Forum

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the monetary value of office space and facilities made available by his Department to the NHS Future Forum and its staff between 4 April and 14 June 2011; [62824]

(2) what estimate he has made of the monetary value of support provided by staff of his Department to the NHS Future Forum; [62825]

(3) what the costs were of *(a)* room hire and *(b)* catering in respect of his Department's NHS listening events; [62827]

(4) pursuant to his contribution of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 657, on NHS Future Forum, under what budget headings the costs of the NHS listening exercise were incurred. [62845]

Mr Simon Burns: The costs of the NHS listening exercise were recorded under the budget headings of event related cost, printing and expenses.

The office space and facilities provided for the NHS Future Forum and its support staff by the Department was from within existing office space and facilities available in the Department and added no additional cost to the public purse.

The secretariat support for the NHS Future Forum provided was from within existing Department staffing levels and added no additional cost to the public purse.

Up until 23 June 2011, the costs of room hire and catering in respect of NHS Future Forum events during the NHS listening exercise for which the Department has been invoiced, are £27,248.63. The Department was not invoiced separately for room hire and catering in relation to these events.

NHS: Innovation

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he takes to *(a)* promote and *(b)* fund innovation in the NHS. [62429]

Mr Simon Burns: The national health service has a proud history when it comes to innovation and is recognised as a leader in the development of innovative techniques and technologies—stretching back across its 63-year history. However, whilst the NHS is recognised as a world leader at invention, the spread of those innovations within the NHS has often been too slow, and sometimes even the best of them fail to achieve widespread use.

As United Kingdom public services face a tougher financial climate, innovation has a vital role to play to continue improving the quality of care for patients, and support the NHS as a major investor and wealth creator in the UK.

This is why in the plan for growth we announced that the NHS chief executive would review how the adoption and diffusion of innovations could be accelerated across the NHS. Working in consultation with industry, academia and other interested parties the NHS chief executive will produce a report in November 2011 that will inform the strategic approach to innovation in the modernised NHS.

However, there is already a substantial amount of work underway to create conditions for innovation to flourish, including Regional Innovation Funds for innovation in front line staff, Innovative Technology Adoption Procurement programme to encourage NHS-wide adoption of high impact innovative medical technologies, and NHS innovation challenge prizes to reward ideas that tackle big health and social care challenges now and in the future.

We also know that adoption is dependent on a culture that embraces innovation. The coalition's modernisation agenda will encourage an NHS that is more agile, more dynamic, more open to ideas and better at adopting new technologies.

Subject to legislation, the NHS Commissioning Board will have new legal duties to promote research and innovation in the NHS. This will enable the NHS to fulfil its role in delivering better healthcare outcomes and to act as an engine for economic growth. It will achieve this by supporting development and adoption of new healthcare or health service related technologies, techniques and processes, whilst providing a market for the new products and services and supporting business, especially small to medium enterprises, to deliver this.

The Government have also committed an additional £10 million over the next two financial years to small business research initiative to address healthcare challenges, making it easier for firms, and small firms in particular, to access the NHS.

However, we need to go further and faster if we are to effectively address significant challenges facing health and social care—now and in the future. Innovation is an essential tool in helping address the challenges of an ageing population, chronic disease, health inequalities and rising public expectations—especially when resources are constrained.

NHS: Labour Mobility

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff who have been made redundant by primary care trusts have been re-employed within the NHS *(a)* directly and *(b)* on a temporary or contract basis in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [62521]

Mr Simon Burns: The estimated number of staff who have been made redundant by primary care trusts between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010 and have been re-employed within the NHS on a permanent basis is 40 and on a fixed term basis is 20.

These estimates are based on data extracted from the Electronic Staff Record Data Warehouse and therefore do not include staff who may have been re-employed by general practices, or Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS: Manpower

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the potential effect of his planned reforms to the NHS on the number of staff employed by the NHS in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [62234]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not currently available.

As part of the 2011-12 operating planning process, the Department is collecting plans and projections on the Hospital and Community Health Services workforce which include the forecast pay bill up to March 2015 from strategic health authorities. This information will be published in the summer.

NHS: Reorganisation

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he held on NHS reform prior to the publication of the White Paper Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [62322]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, published by the previous administration in July 2008, consultation by the Government should take place when there is clarity about what is being proposed. The Government therefore held a three-month consultation on the White Paper as soon as the White Paper was published in July last year.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what travel and subsistence costs were incurred by *(a)* Future Forum members and *(b)* officials supporting the Future Forum in relation to the NHS listening exercise; [62826]

(2) what arrangements he put in place for payment of members of the NHS Future Forum; and whether these arrangements included payment of locum costs for clinical staff. [62846]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department did not put in place arrangements to pay members of the NHS Future Forum, who volunteered their time to support the NHS Listening Exercise. However, the Department put in place arrangements so that members of the NHS Future Forum could claim travel and subsistence relating to their attendance at events during the NHS Listening Exercise.

With prior agreement, NHS Future Forum members were also able to claim costs of locum cover where this was necessary to enable their attendance at Forum meetings.

In addition, the Department made arrangements to compensate the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, a registered charity, for loaning their chief executive, Sir Stephen Bubb, for the period the NHS Listening Exercise so that Sir Stephen was able to act as chair for the Forum's workstream on choice and competition.

To date (up until 23 June 2011) the expenses and locum fees invoiced by the 45 members of the NHS Future Forum, which were incurred during the eight-week period of the NHS Listening Exercise, are £12,937.00; the breakdown of which is £9,794.70 for expenses and £3,142.30 for locum costs. The entitlements to claim were in line with the departmental standard rates and the sums have been met from the Department's allocated budget.

Travel and subsistence costs for staff supporting the NHS Future Forum were in line with the departmental standard rates and were met by the Department's existing staffing budget.

Organs: Donors

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have registered for organ donation using driving licence application forms since the introduction of that facility. [62396]

Anne Milton: The information is provided in the following table.

Number of people in the United Kingdom on the Organ Donor Register as at 23 June 2011 by source of registration

Source class	*Number of registrations*	*Percentage of total*
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	8,744,996	48.3
General practitioner registration	4,162,359	23.0
Boots	1,251,952	6.9
Online	606,659	3.4
Leaflet	1,070,710	5.9
Organ donor line	80,792	0.4
Other	2,188,054	12.1
Total	18,105,522	

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Patients: Safety

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 262-3W, on NHS Trusts, which of the NHS trusts subject to the national review of costs associated with private finance initiative schemes have raised patient safety concerns related to their financial situation with *(a)* the strategic health authority and *(b)* his Department. [62505]

Mr Simon Burns: Work on the tripartite formal agreements between all the remaining national health service trusts, strategic health authorities and the Department has not yet been completed. When these have been finalised and the agreement has been signed by all parties, they will be published locally. Each agreement will identify the issues each national health service trust faces and the actions that will establish them as sustainable providers of high quality health care. This will include those who are part of the current review of the issues associated with private finance initiative schemes.

More generally, there will be no 'lowering of the bar' in respect of standards required by Monitor to achieve foundation trust status, particularly in the way that quality of care is considered during the application process.

Primary Care Trusts: Expenditure

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has *(a)* spent to date and *(b)* allocated for future expenditure for (i) redundancy payments, (ii) pay in lieu of notice and (iii) additional payments to pension schemes for staff from primary care trusts. [62520]

Mr Simon Burns: Audited 2010-11 data on primary care trust (PCT) redundancy payments is not yet available. Figures will be available once the NHS (England) Summarised Accounts are audited, signed and laid before Parliament in late July.

The Impact Assessments (IA) published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January 2011, copies of which have already been placed in the Library, estimated the costs of modernising the NHS and reducing administration costs. This included the redundancy costs associated with reducing the size of the workforce. The redundancy cost estimates include redundancy payments, pay in lieu of notice and payments to pension schemes.

The cost estimate associated with these redundancies was in the range of £772 million to £1,288 million in PCTs and strategic health authorities (SHAs).

There is no central money set aside for redundancy costs in PCTs and SHAs. The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 requires PCTs to hold 2% of their revenue allocation to support the costs of change, including the redundancy costs associated with modernising the NHS. This equates to £1,600 million in 2011-12 and, potentially, a similar sum in 2012-13. Not all of this resource will be required for redundancy costs.

Psychotherapy

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultation the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence had with psychotherapy professionals in developing its guidelines on psychotherapy; [62288]

(2) what consultation with professional organisations in the field of psychotherapy the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence undertook when developing its guidelines on psychotherapy. [62289]

Paul Burstow: This is a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as an independent body. I have asked the chief executive of NICE to write to the right hon. Member with this information. A copy of that letter will be placed in the Library.

Radiotherapy

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cancer networks include at least one radiotherapy centre that offers intensity-modulated radiotherapy; [62365]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of breast cancer patients suitable for treatment with intensity-modulated radiotherapy; [62366]

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of commissioners who have developed local plans to ensure the use of intensity-modulated radiation therapy where appropriate, as set out in the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12; [62516]

(2) with reference to Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer, what progress his Department has made in developing a tariff for *(a)* radiotherapy and *(b)* intensity-modulated radiation therapy; and when he expects to set those tariffs; [62517]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 127W, on radiotherapy, what recent progress the National Radiotherapy Dataset project team has made on improving the collection of data on intensity-modulated radiotherapy provision. [62519]

Paul Burstow: Expert opinion has suggested that 30% of breast cancer patients would benefit from a simple form of Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT). A trial is underway to establish the evidence base for the use of IMRT to treat breast cancer.

"The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12" sets out that to improve outcomes from radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients, commissioners should develop local plans to ensure that access rates to radiotherapy and the use of advanced radiotherapy techniques, such as IMRT, are appropriate for their populations. The National Cancer Action Team has been working with providers to support the development of IMRT services and, at this time, 20 of the 28 cancer networks have at least one provider offering IMRT.

It is anticipated that national currencies for radiotherapy and IMRT will be introduced for contracting in April 2012, with prices agreed locally. Feedback from the service on the use of these currencies will inform decisions on when it would be appropriate to introduce a mandatory national tariff, which is likely to be no earlier than 2013-14.

The Radiotherapy Clinical Information Group will publish a report on the first full year of radiotherapy data collection shortly. This will show the progress made on the collection of IMRT data as part of the National Radiotherapy Dataset.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Offices

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total is of *(a)* staffing and *(b)* other costs of his Department's offices in (i) Belgium, (ii) Italy, (iii) France, (iv) Switzerland and (v) the US in each of the last five years. [62413]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not maintain its own offices in Belgium, Italy, France, Switzerland or the United States. However, there is a small number of DFID staff working in these countries to represent UK interests and promote the Government's international development priorities in a number of international organisations. These include a range of United Nations agencies (Italy, France, Switzerland and the US), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (France), the European Union (Belgium), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Switzerland), and the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Switzerland).

The following table sets out the costs of this representation in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Current reporting systems do not provide consistent financial information for financial years prior to 2009-10.

		£000		
Year	*Country*	*Total staffing costs*[1]	*Total other costs*[2]	*Total running costs*
2009-10	Belgium	419	27	446
	Italy	176	393	569
	France	219	551	770
	Switzerland	200	0	200
	United States	80	128	208
2010-11	Belgium	227	39	266
	Italy	161	250	411

Year	Country	Total staffing costs[1]	Total other costs[2]	Total running costs
		£000		
	France	196	221	417
	Switzerland	134	0	134
	United States	170	130	300

[1] Staffing costs include salaries and allowances to DFID staff.
[2] Other costs include contributions to office running costs and payments to locally employed staff.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will increase the proportion of official development assistance that is allocated as budget support in order to assist developing countries in covering *(a)* health workers' salaries and *(b)* other recurrent costs of their healthcare systems. [62367]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We do not have a central process to determine the amount of aid to allocate through different aid modalities. We make decisions based on each country context.

The Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews, of March 2011, presented an ambitious re-orientation of Britain's development assistance: from focusing on inputs to focusing on results and value for money.

Country Offices in their Operational Plans (2011-12 to 2014-15) have presented how they will achieve development results to change the lives of the poor.

We will provide budget support when we assess that it can achieve better results and value for money than other ways of delivering aid. The Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that around 25% of its aid to health is spent on human resources for health.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support developing countries which are expanding and strengthening their health workforce *(a)* under the Millennium Development Goals and *(b)* as part of the Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health. [62368]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government fully recognise the central importance of health workers in accelerating progress towards our health goals, and are strongly committed to strengthening health systems, and to supporting health workers as part of this. The Department for International Development (DFID) estimates that around 25% of its aid to health supports human resources for health.

We will continue to help countries to develop their own healthcare systems in a way that suits their needs and contexts, including support to country efforts to build and maintain health worker capacity.

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure equitable access to health services for the poorest women and their children in *(a)* developing countries and *(b)* rural areas of developing countries. [62394]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is ensuring equitable access to health services by improving the coverage and quality of health services, especially in rural areas. In particular, we are investing heavily in services which will improve maternal health outcomes and tackle malaria.

To make sure these services reach the poorest women and their children, we are also helping remove the barriers that stop these vulnerable groups from accessing care. For example, over the last year DFID has supported the launch of free health care for pregnant women and children in Sierra Leone. As a result, the number of children under five receiving health care has tripled and the number of maternity emergencies treated in health units has increased by 150%.

Developing Countries: Malnutrition

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of children under the age of five in developing countries who die in conditions where undernutrition is a major contributory factor. [62393]

Mr O'Brien: UK support over the next four years will stop 10 million more children going hungry in countries with a high burden of malnutrition in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. A growing portfolio of nutrition-related programmes will focus on reaching pregnant women and children under the age of five. Programmes include treatment for severe acutely malnourished children, and prevention, for example by providing support for breastfeeding and nutrition supplements. Other programmes address the underlying causes of undernutrition, such as lack of access to food, via cash transfer and agriculture programmes. A research programme will address evidence gaps on the most cost-effective solutions.

The UK wants an effective international response to tackle undernutrition and is active in the Scaling Up Nutrition initiative (SUN). SUN supports countries to develop their own comprehensive nutrition programmes aimed at tackling undernutrition in the first "1000 days" from conception to child's second birthday.

EDUCATION

Academies

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to fund the refurbishment and rebuilding of academies; and if he will make a statement. [60750]

Mr Gibb: There are a number of Academies that have had capital funding approved for new or refurbished buildings through the Building Schools for the Future programme. Projects of this nature, which started under the previous Government and are now confirmed, will continue to completion.

Priority is being given to meeting urgent building condition needs and the basic need for new pupil places because of local demographic changes. An £85 million Academies Capital Maintenance Fund is available for the purposes of addressing urgent building condition

needs. The first round of applications to the fund closed on 27 May 2011. Partnerships for Schools is currently assessing these applications and will notify Academies of the outcome by the end of June.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education ordered a comprehensive review of all the Department's capital programmes last year, which reported on 8 April 2011. The Department's response to the review, which is planned for later this year, will inform how we provide capital funding to Academies in future years, including any for new buildings and refurbishment projects.

Academies: Sheffield

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the contribution of the Minister of State of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 938, on academies (funding), which schools in the city of Sheffield area will become academies under his proposals. [61350]

Mr Gibb: On 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 938, during the debate on academy funding, I referred to the announcement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education to extend the academies programme to underperforming primary schools, particularly the 200 worst-performing primary schools in England. The Department does not intend to publish a list of these schools.

Adoption

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many placement orders have ended before adoption has been granted in each year since 2004-05. [61695]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The number of children whose placement orders ended before an adoption order was granted is shown in table 1, along with the number of children who ceased to be looked after while subject to a placement order other than those who were adopted. Placement orders were introduced in December 2005; therefore the first full year for which this information is available is the year ending 31 March 2007.

In addition to the children whose placement orders ended before an adoption order was granted, there were 190 children in the year ending 31 March 2010 who were no longer placed for adoption but continued to be looked after under a placement order.

Information on the number of children no longer placed for adoption was available for the first time in 2010.

Table 1: Children looked after whose placement orders ceased during the year ending 31 March[1,2,3,4] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010, coverage: England

				Numbers
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Children whose placement order ceased and continued to be looked after under a different legal status	10	40	60	80

Table 1: Children looked after whose placement orders ceased during the year ending 31 March[1,2,3,4] years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010, coverage: England

				Numbers
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Children who ceased to be looked after while subject to a placement order, other than those who were adopted[5]	10	20	40	20

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[3] All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] Placement orders were introduced in December 2005 and replaced Freeing orders which unlike placement orders cannot be rescinded.
[5] This includes children who ceased to be looked after for the following reasons: died, care taken over by another local authority in the UK, returned home to live with parents, residence order granted, special guardianship order granted, moved into independent living arrangement or ceased to be looked after for any other unspecified reason.
Source:
SSDA 903

Business: Education

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the proportion of young people who participated in enterprise awareness activities in schools in each year since 2005. [61093]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect this information.

An independent evaluation of the Enterprise Education programme was published in July 2010.

CAFCASS: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many people of each *(a)* grade and *(b)* responsibility were employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in 2010; [62669]

(2) how many staff *(a)* joined and *(b)* left the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) in each CAFCASS region in 2010. [62670]

Tim Loughton: These questions relate to operational matters for which CAFCASS is responsible. CAFCASS's chief executive, Anthony Douglas, has written to the right hon. Member to address the issues raised. A copy of his letter has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 28 June 2011:

I am writing to you in response to the two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

PQ62669—Mr Elfyn Llwyd (Dwyfor Meirionnydd): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many people of each (a) grade and (b) responsibility were employed by Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services in 2010.

Cafcass does not employ people on a grade basis; the table below breaks down employees by responsibility as at 31 December 2010.

Grade	Head count 31 December 2010
Business Support such as Office Managers and administrators	313
Cleaners	7
Family Court Advisors	1,110
Bank FCAs and Sessional Workers who work on a case by case basis	170
Heads of Service	32
Senior Managers	22
Service Managers	137
Specialist Staff with specialist skills such as Finance, HR, etc.	139
Family Support Workers	94
Total	2,024

PQ 62670—Mr Elfyn Llwyd (Dwyfor Meirionnydd): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many staff (a) joined and (b) left Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Services (CAFCASS) in each CAFCASS region in 2010.

Starters and leavers by region January to December 2010

Region	Starters	Leavers
North	44	109
Central	79	102
South	99	104
National Office	32	34
Total	254	349

Departmental Written Questions

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education to what proportion of parliamentary questions for written answer his Department has responded *(a)* on the date for answer, *(b)* less than five days after the date for answer, *(c)* between five and 10 days after the date for answer and *(d)* more than 10 days after the date for answer in each month since May 2010. [61763]

Tim Loughton: The Department aims to answer named day questions on the date specified by the Member and ordinary questions within five sitting days. Where it is not possible to provide a full answer within the usual deadline, the Department believes it will usually be preferable to provide a full answer a few days late than to provide an incomplete answer.

The management information on PQ performance is recorded to capture PQs that have been answered within the deadline; answered between six and 10 days of the deadline; and 10 days after the deadline. Therefore this table combines the answers to parts *(b)* and *(c)* of the question.

Ordinary written PQs

	Met parliamentary deadline	Less then five days and five to 10 days after the date for answer	Percentage 10 days or longer after the parliamentary deadline
May 2010	25	61	14
June 2010	2	35	63
July 2010	1	31	68
August 2010	n/a	n/a	n/a
September 2010	2	6	92
October 2010	5	20	75
November 2010	7	13	87
December 2010	0	6	94
January 2011	1	16	83
February 2011	1	2	97
March 2011	12	51	37
April 2011	66	24	9
May 2011	24	58	18

Named day PQs

	Met parliamentary deadline	Less then five days and five to 10 days after the date for answer	Percentage 10 days or longer after the parliamentary deadline
May 2010	34	44	22
June 2010	18	44	38
July 2010	8	21	70
August 2010	n/a	n/a	n/a
September 2010	11	9	80
October 2010	6	6	78
November 2010	9	25	66
December 2010	4	11	85
January 2011	2	25	73
February 2011	6	3	90
March 2011	18	60	21
April 2011	33	45	22
May 2011	26	45	29

These figures are drawn from the Department's PQ tracking system. The figures have been drawn from the Department's database which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people received more than £1,000 in education maintenance allowance in 2009-10. [60533]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Stratford on Avon with the information requested.

Letter from Peter Lauener dated 21 June 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked;

"How many young people received more than £1,000 of education maintenance allowance in 2009-10."

The number of young people who received weekly payments during the 2009-2010 academic year totalling more than £1000 was 153,798. Including bonus payments the figure was 296,802.

English Baccalaureate

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will monitor the *(a)* effect on the number of schools offering full course GCSE Religious Education and *(b)* other effects of his proposed arrangements for the humanities element of the English baccalaureate. [61448]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* We do not currently collect systematic data on detailed subject option choices offered by schools or the choices pupils make on their GCSE subjects. However, the Department has work under way to assess whether and how the English baccalaureate has influenced the GCSE choices made in schools from September 2011. We will use this, together with a range of other information sources, to inform future policy development.

Free School Meals

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost per meal was of free school meals in each local authority in each of the last five years. [61021]

Mr Gibb: This information is not collected by the Department. However, the School Food Trust publishes information annually on meal prices in primary, secondary and special schools. This information for 2009-10 can be found in Table 10 of the "Fifth annual survey of take up of school lunches in England" report, available at:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/school-cooks-caterers/reports/fifth-annual-survey-of-take-up-of-school-meals-in-england

The survey does not specifically ask for free school meal prices, but the Trust advises that the price of a paid-for school meal can be used to indicate the value of a free school meal.

Free School Meals: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were eligible for free school meals in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Dartford constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [61941]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the table.

State-funded primary and secondary schools[1, 2, 3] and special schools[4]: Free school meal eligibility[5, 6]. As at January 2011. In Kent local authority and Dartford parliamentary constituency

	State-funded primary schools[1, 2]			*State-funded secondary schools[1, 3]*			*Special schools[4]*		
	Number on roll[5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Number on roll[5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Number on roll[5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5, 6]*
Kent local authority	106,298	16,217	15.3	81,714	9,435	11.5	2,763	872	31.6
Dartford parliamentary constituency	8,304	1,111	13.4	6,800	596	8.8	293	82	28.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[6] Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils.
Source:
School Census

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Further Education: Barnsley

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to increase access to further education for 16 to 18-year-olds in Barnsley. [60421]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Government have already taken steps to enable more 16 to 18-year-olds to access further education and training. In Barnsley, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds are already participating in education and work based education or training: 79% at the end of 2009.

The process of offering 16 and 17-year-olds a suitable place in education or training by the end of September, which has been known as the 'September Guarantee', will continue. In Barnsley 97.8% of 16 and 17-year-olds received such an offer in 2010.

We are funding more education and training places than ever before, which is a very high priority as we prepare for raising the participation age to 17 in 2013 and 18 by 2015. In total we will be funding over 1.3 million places in schools, colleges and other providers and a further 230,000 apprenticeship places during the 2011/12 academic year. This is sufficient to provide a place in

education or training for every young person who wants one. In Barnsley, 16-18 school and further education providers have been allocated funding to support 267 more student places in 2011/12 than this year.

From September 2011, those young people who are facing genuine financial barriers to participation in education or training post 16 will be able to apply for financial support from the new £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Local authorities will retain their statutory duty to encourage, enable or assist young people's participation in education or training. Using funding from the new Early Intervention Grant, they will be able to intervene early with those who are at risk of disengagement and provide the tailored support that young people in their area need to engage.

Primary Education: Yorkshire and the Humber

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many primary schools in *(a)* North East Lincolnshire, *(b)* North Lincolnshire and *(c)* Hull were below the Government's primary minimum floor standard in each of the last five years. [61423]

Mr Gibb: The numbers of schools below the Government's primary minimum floor standards in each of the last five years are:

	2010	*2009*	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
(a) North East Lincolnshire	5	9	15	14	14
(b) North Lincolnshire	4	8	7	10	10
(c) Kingston upon Hull	9	11	18	23	26

The primary floor standard combines measures of attainment and progression and was introduced in November 2010. The 2010 floor standard has been applied to previous years, including attainment and progression for 2009 and 2010 and attainment only for the previous three years as progression data are not available.

Religion: Education

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of excluding religious education (RE) from the English baccalaureate on the number of students studying full course RE at GCSE level. [61288]

Mr Gibb: We do not currently collect systematic data on the choices pupils make on their GCSE subjects. However, the Department has work under way to assess whether and how the English baccalaureate has influenced the GCSE offer made in schools from September 2011. We will use this, together with a range of other information sources, to inform future policy development.

Schools: Admissions

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many representations he has received from local authorities in support of the abolition of admissions forums to date. [60834]

Mr Gibb: We have had a number of discussions at official level, which highlighted the very mixed view on the effectiveness of admissions forum. Some have said they are very useful and always quorate, other local authorities have found the forums to be costly and unproductive. As was made clear during the Commons stages of the Education Bill, we are not proposing the abolition of admission forums. Instead, clause 34 of the Education Bill would remove the mandate on every local authority to set up an admissions forum, leaving the local authority and their communities to decide what groups are most appropriate for their circumstances. This does not reduce parental voice in the admission system. Parents will still have the right to be consulted on admission arrangements, to object to any they consider are not compliant with the code, and they retain the right to appeal against a decision not to offer them a place at one of their preferred schools.

Schools: Assessments

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he plans to provide unique pupil numbers on future releases of school examinations data; [58817]

(2) what steps he plans to take to promote more do-it-yourself league tables of educational performance. [58818]

Mr Gibb: We want to make it easier for parents and the public to hold schools to account, giving them access to more information about every school and how it performs, to make a positive impact on the choices that parents make. An important element of this will be the provision of information in a way that allows parents to ask the questions that are most important to them.

From January 2012, the tables will include the publication of a wider range of KS4 indicators than ever before and increasing amounts of data released from the National Pupil Database. To allow a greater level of interrogation and to enable alternative league tables to be produced, further work is being undertaken to ensure that the release of the data required for such a purpose is compliant with the Data Protection Act. The release of unique pupil numbers is not required to facilitate the production of alternative league tables and the Department has no plans to release publicly personal and identifiable data including unique pupil numbers alongside examinations and test data.

Schools: Catering

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* free schools and *(b)* academies do not have catering facilities. [59973]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The majority of the free schools hoping to open in September 2011 will have catering facilities. Information on catering facilities at academies is not held centrally.

Schools: Standards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* state schools, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* faith schools have been placed in special measures by Ofsted in each of the last five years; and how many have been closed for reasons of poor performance in each such year. [61809]

Mr Gibb: Data from 2005/06 to 2009/10 on state and faith schools which have been placed in special measures and those that have closed has been placed in the House Libraries.

Independent schools are not subject to special measures. Instead, the Department takes regulatory action against schools where there is evidence that a school is not meeting the Independent School Standards.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the capability of local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties to provide careers guidance to pupils in schools and sixth form colleges. [58922]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The Department for Education has not conducted any formal assessment of the capability of local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties to provide careers guidance to pupils in schools and sixth form colleges. They are funded through the Early Intervention Grant to support young people's participation, including their transitional responsibility for careers guidance in advance of new arrangements coming into effect in 2012. It is for local authorities to decide how they should make arrangements for supporting young people's participation, taking into account the needs of their local communities.

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the allocation of funding for the schools element of the all-age careers service; and if he will make a statement. [59173]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The level of the Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium in 2011-12 has been announced. There are no amounts within these totals ring fenced or separately identified for any purpose; it will be for schools to determine how they use their resources, including for securing access to careers guidance.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether face-to-face professional careers guidance is to be guaranteed prior to the introduction of the National Careers Service. [61320]

Mr Gibb: Local authorities retain their responsibility to enable, encourage and assist young people's participation in education or training, including through the provision of careers guidance. It is for local authorities to determine how best to do so, taking into account local priorities and the needs and circumstances of young people in their area. The Early Intervention Grant will support local authorities' transitional responsibilities for careers guidance until the new arrangements are in place.

The Department for Education website sets out the Government's expectations of local authorities and schools in relation to careers guidance over the next 18 months, through to 2012. This will allow them to make their own transitional arrangements.

http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/careersguidance/a0064052/the-role-of-schools-and-local-authorities-in-careers-guidance

Vocational Guidance

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what discussions he has had with professional careers advisers about the proposed careers summit. [58542]

Mr Hayes: Numerous discussions have taken place with careers professionals about the careers summit through the direct involvement of their representative bodies, including the National Connexions Network and the Local Authority Reference Group, in planning for the event. Plans are well advanced for the event, which is scheduled to take place in July, and invitations will be issued shortly.

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the ability of the all-age careers service to provide statistical information on the education, employment and training outcomes of young people aged 16 to 19 years. [59172]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The all-age careers service will not be responsible for providing statistical information on the education, employment and training outcomes of young people aged 16 to 18 years. Local authorities have—and will retain—responsibility for enabling, encouraging and assisting young people's participation in education and training, including maintaining effective records and reporting on the activities of young people in their area.

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many qualified careers advisers were employed in the careers service *(a)* in Nottinghamshire and *(b)* nationally in each of the last two years. [59174]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 10 June 2011]:* The Department for Education does not hold information on the number of advisers employed by local services.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 30 June 2011

SCOTLAND

Economic Situation

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* his Department's policies and *(b)* the Scottish economy of trends in retail expenditure. [62944]

Michael Moore: Latest retail sales figures from the Scottish Retail Consortium (SRC), published earlier this month, show an expected decrease for May following on from an increase in April. The SRC indicates this was a consequence of an extra bank holiday, the royal wedding and warm weather in April. Latest business surveys, such as the Bank of Scotland June purchasing managers index (PMI), indicate that the Scottish economy has been growing in the first five months of the year. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to back the Government's consolidation plans and advises against changing course.

High Speed Rail

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Transport and *(b)* Scottish Ministers on the potential extension of high-speed rail to Scotland. [62918]

Michael Moore: The Government remain committed to a truly national high-speed rail network, which will be delivered in phases. I met with the Secretary of State for Transport on 13 July and discussed a range of issues, including new high-speed rail services for Scotland, and both I and the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale (David Mundell), have discussed this issue with Scottish Ministers.

Scottish Retail Consortium

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives from the Scottish Retail Consortium; and what matters were discussed. [62943]

Michael Moore: There is regular contact at official level with the Scottish Retail Consortium on a wide range of issues and the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale (David Mundell), met the organisation last year to discuss challenges facing the sector. We continue to pursue regular engagement with the retail sector at ministerial and official level.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Government Procurement Card

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to his Department's publication of Government Procurement Card data for 2008 to 2010, (1) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £1,119 restaurant meal at Bank Restaurant, London in October 2008, *(b)* the £700 restaurant meal at Bodrum in April 2008, (c) the £159 restaurant meal at Boisdales in April 2008, *(d)* the £82 meal at Boisdales in March 2009, *(e)* the £169 restaurant meal at Kazan in September 2008 and *(f)* the £111 meal at Kazan in November 2008; [59201]

(2) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £814 restaurant meals at Brasserie 44 in 2008, *(b)* the £345 restaurant meals at Boisdales in December 2009, *(c)* the £377 restaurant meal at Formans in January 2010, *(d)* the £490 restaurant meal at Gran Paradiso in December 2009, *(e)* the £104 restaurant meal at Olivomare in June 2008 and *(f)* the £127 restaurant meal at Sardo in March 2009; [59202]

(3) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £195 of expenditure on leisure activities at the Royal Kings Arms on 10 June 2008, *(b)* the £232 of expenditure on leisure activities at Electric Mountain on 14 April 2008 and *(c)* the £245 leisure activities event at Pump House in July 2008; [59203]

(4) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £522 restaurant meal at L'Atelier in Brussels in October 2008, *(b)* the £78 restaurant meal at Shepherds in April 2009, *(c)* the £517 restaurant meal at the Haunch of Venison in December 2009, *(d)* the £1344 restaurant meal at The National Cafe in January 2009 and *(e)* the £97 restaurant meals at The Wolseley in (i) December 2008 and (ii) June 2009; [59204]

(5) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £361 spent on London Ducktours in May 2008, *(b)* the £2006 event at the Museum of London in November 2009, *(c)* the £575 event at the National Maritime Museum in September 2009 and *(d)* the £598 visit to the Royal National Theatre in August 2008; and who attended each event; [59205]

(6) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £150 bar bill at the Princess Alice in November 2009 and *(b)* the purchases at the Cinnamon Club between November 2008 and March 2010; [59206]

(7) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £291 restaurant meal at The Narrow in June 2009, *(b)* the £522 restaurant meal at Yong An Xianqiangfang in Shanghai in November 2008, *(c)* the £200 restaurant meal at Rummer Hotel in July 2009; [59207]

(8) what the purpose and function was of *(a)* the £500 event procured via Gruppo Events Ltd in January 2009, *(b)* the £904 event procured via Kudos Hospitality Ltd in March 2010 and *(c)* the £1304 event procured via Leiths in October 2008. [59208]

Robert Neill: The purpose and function of selected items of expenditure purchased on Government Procurement Cards used by the Department have been tabulated for ease of reference and deposited in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: EU Countries

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment Frontex has made of the risk of irregular migration into the EU in 2011; and how many asylum applications it recorded in the southern European countries of the EU in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [62677]

Damian Green: The Frontex annual risk analysis 2011 report published in May 2011 proposes that regular passenger flows across the external EU borders will increase in 2011 due to rising global mobility, possible visa liberalisation procedures for the EU's eastern European partners and new local border traffic agreements along the eastern borders.

Frontex assesses that the most likely high-pressure points for illegal border crossings in 2011-12 will be along the Mediterranean coast and the land border with Turkey. Migrants with relatively easy access to Turkey or north Africa will continue to typify the flow.

Frontex recorded 219,814 applications for international protection in the EU in 2009 and 203,880 for 2010. Frontex does not publish figures broken down by individual member states or groups of countries. The figure excludes applications made in inland France.

Fixed Penalties

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future range of offences for which a *(a)* fixed penalty notice and *(b)* penalty notice for disorder may be issued; and if she will make a statement. [61399]

Nick Herbert: A fixed penalty notice can be issued for any offence in respect of a vehicle that has been made a fixed penalty offence by order of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Fixed penalty offences are kept under continuous review and additions are made as appropriate. The Government's new strategic framework for road safety, issued in May, proposed that the offence of careless driving should be made a fixed penalty offence. Subject to impact assessment and regulatory clearance, we expect this to come into effect in 2012.

The offences for which a PND can be issued are likewise kept under review. As set out in the Green Paper "Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", the Ministry of Justice will be consulting on a limited further extension of the PND scheme. The proposed additional offences will include minor disorder offences committed in Royal Parks for which PNDs are currently not available, as well as other low-level disorder offences that may be appropriate to be dealt with by a PND.

Garages and Petrol Stations: Theft

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of driving away from filling stations without payment were reported to police forces in each month since May 2010; and if she will make a statement. [62656]

Nick Herbert: This information is not collected centrally.

Offences of making off without payment are included in the Home Office offence classification 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (pre Fraud Act 2006)' and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the countries which have banned the organisation Hizb ut-Tahrir; and what account she takes of the positions of such countries in determining her policy on Hizb ut-Tahrir in the UK. [62232]

James Brokenshire: We understand that Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT) is subject to some form of ban in Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

HuT is an organisation about which the Government have significant concerns. We keep its activities under close review. In doing so, the Secretary of State for the Home Department takes into account information about HuT's activities in other countries, including the position taken by foreign Governments.

However, the basis on which groups can be banned in other countries is not necessarily the same as the basis on which groups can be proscribed in the UK. A group can be proscribed in the UK only if the Secretary of State believes it is "concerned in terrorism" within the meaning of the Terrorism Act 2000. Some countries ban all political groups; other countries ban groups that are considered to be seditious, extremist or otherwise unacceptable. Germany, for example, has banned HuT on grounds relating to holocaust denial and anti-Semitism.

Human Rights Act 1998

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has given consideration to the effect on naturists of any potential changes to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [62684]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Human Rights Act 1998 applies to all people equally, whatever their lifestyle. The Government have established an independent commission to consider the case for a UK Bill of Rights and the commission has announced that it is establishing a work plan which will include consultation with the public. I therefore expect that there will be an opportunity for any concerns about the impact of potential changes to be raised with the commission.

Offences Against Children

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* girls groomed for sexual exploitation and *(b)* perpetrators of child sexual exploitation in the latest period for which figures are available. [60890]

James Brokenshire: Data on offences are held by the Ministry of Justice and the following table gives the latest available data in relation to cautions, prosecutions and convictions for child sex offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Children Act 1989 and the Child Abduction Act 1984 in England and Wales.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) has conducted a thematic assessment on child sexual exploitation. The report was published on 29 June 2011 and we are now considering its findings.

Offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2004-09[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

		2007			2008[6]			2009		
Statute	*Description*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Sexual offences Act 2003										
Section 5	Rape of a child under 13	25	300	134	23	317	179	14	444	180
Section 6	Assault of a child by penetration under 13	7	130	75	9	166	88	24	190	89
Section 7	Sexual Assault of a child under 13	135	582	344	115	522	355	94	876	321
Section 8	Causing or inciting child under 13 to engage in sexual activity	30	101	68	22	106	80	14	138	77
Section 9	Sexual Activity with a child	299	682	592	267	720	641	255	944	678
Section 10	Causing or inciting child to engage in sexual activity	49	142	86	67	179	99	64	205	108
Section 11	Engaging in a sexual activity in the presence of a child	16	77	59	9	65	63	10	78	63
Section 12	Causing a child to watch a sexual act	13	23	17	11	20	21	13	18	18
Section 14	Arranging or Facilitating a child sexual offence	4	32	18	4	19	15	2	25	17
Section 47	Paying for the sexual services of a child	1	7	3	—	3	3	2	3	5
Section 48	Causing or inciting child prostitution or pornography	—	2	4	—	13	7	2	12	8
Section 49	Controlling a child prostitute or a child involved in pornography	1	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
Section 50	Arranging or facilitating child prostitution or pornography	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	6	1
Child Abduction Act 1984										
Section 2	Offence of abduction of child by other persons	17	99	52	10	87	48	9	116	50
Children Act 1989										
Section 49	Abduction of children in care and inducing, inciting or assisting a child to run away	12	25	13	15	41	26	9	44	27

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence. From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.
[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
[6] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the responses to her Department's consultation on proposals for elected police and crime commissioners. [63096]

Mrs May: The 'Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people' summary of consultation responses and next steps was published in December 2010. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Police: Incentives

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on whether bonuses have been *(a)* offered to and *(b)* accepted by senior police officers in Lancashire constabulary in each of the last two years. [62666]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The offer and payment of bonuses to chief officers is a matter for the police authority, working within the agreed national framework. The Home Office does not gather information from police authorities on bonuses.

However, figures for bonuses paid to Lancashire's chief officer team are shown in the force's accounts, which are published on the police authority website.

Sexual Offences: Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will support the creation of a sexual assault and rape centre for north Yorkshire and York; and if she will make a statement. [62596]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office provided North Yorkshire police with a grant of £75,000 in December 2010 to develop a sexual assault referral centre. The Department of Health provided a further £30,000. Sexual assault referral centres are partnerships between police authorities and NHS primary care trusts. They are local partnerships and local areas are best placed to decide what level of service they require and what model is best to deliver that.

The Government are committed to tackling sexual offences and, as part of our violence against women strategy, are providing £28 million directly to specialist services over the next four years.

Stalking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to bring forward legislative proposals to create an offence of stalking. [63056]

Lynne Featherstone: Stalking behaviour can be prosecuted under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. My Department, working with the Ministry of Justice, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), continues to keep the effectiveness of this legislation under review.

West Midlands Police: Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police constables West Midlands police employed in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [57498]

(2) how many police officers were assigned to duties in Coventry in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such officers she expects to be assigned to such duties in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13. [57499]

Nick Herbert: The available figures show the number of police constables in West Midlands police force in 2008, 2009 and 2010 as at 31 March (full-time equivalent figures). The second table shows police officer strength in the following basic command units which Coventry covers: West Midlands M1, West Midlands M2 and West Midlands M3 as at 31 March 2010 (full-time equivalents).

Decisions about the size and deployment of the police workforce are a matter for chief constables to take locally in conjunction with their police authority and, from May 2012, their police and crime commissioner. Therefore estimates for the number of police officers for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are not available centrally.

Police constable strength for 2008, 2009 and 2010 as at 31 March for West Midlands police force

	Full-time equivalents[1] *Police constables in West Midlands police*
2008	6,816
2009	7,002
2010	6,960

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Police officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2010 for West Midlands police force[1]

Police Force	*BCU*	*Full-time equivalents Police officers*
West Midlands	West Midlands M1	309
	West Midlands M2	252
	West Midlands M3	265

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Note:
Figures include those officers on career breaks.

West Midlands Police: Overtime

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overtime hours were paid to *(a)* warranted officers and *(b)* civilian staff of West Midlands police in each of the last three years; and what the total cost to the public purse was of such overtime in each such year. [57497]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office does not hold information on the number of overtime hours paid to warranted officers and civilian staff in West Midlands police.

For data on the total cost of overtime to West Midlands police for each of the last three years, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 79-84W.

JUSTICE

Courts: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of closed circuit television in courts. [62916]

Mr Djanogly: It is the policy of Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service to seek to provide closed circuit television in courts for the safety of court users, employees and judicial office holders and operated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Information Commissioner's code of practice for closed circuit television.

Where it is not possible to install closed circuit television in a given court, or in particular areas of the court, an appropriate risk assessment must be undertaken at the location to ensure effective measures are in place to provide a secure environment for all court users.

Data Protection Act 1998

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the level of compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 by insurance companies and others providing details of claims to claims management companies. [62953]

Mr Djanogly: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent body responsible for regulating the Data Protection Act 1998.

It would not be appropriate for the Government to comment on the ICO's investigations in individual cases. However, I understand that it is the ICO position that if insurance companies were selling personal data to claims management companies without clearly informing the individuals concerned, this would breach the first data protection principle and therefore be in breach of the Act. The ICO is discussing with the Association of British Insurers the industry's practice in relation to referral fees.

The ICO is also currently investigating complaints concerning spam text messages about accidents under the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR).

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 511-12W, on departmental legal costs, if he will place in the Library a copy of the submission made by HM Revenue and Customs to his Department's consultation on reform of civil litigation funding and costs. [63092]

Mr Djanogly: As indicated in my answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 511-12W, discussions are continuing with officials in HM Revenue and Customs on the impact of civil litigation funding and costs reform on insolvency litigation. I believe that disclosure of internal papers could prejudice these discussions. Therefore, I am minded not to publish HMRC's submission.

Judges: Housing

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 512W, what the cost to the public purse was of judges' lodgings in each location in 2009-10. [62968]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following table shows the cost of judges' lodgings in each location for 2009-10.

Location	*Cost (£)*
Birmingham	494,600
Bristol	210,800
Caernarfon	13,600
Cambridge	18,700
Cardiff	255,200
Carlisle	15,900
Chelmsford	197,800
Chester	231,900
Exeter	44,600
Hull	37,800
Leeds	433,400
Leicester	27,200
Lewes	49,100
Lincoln	3,900
Liverpool	276,400
Maidstone	101,100
Manchester	314,800
Northampton	650,000
Norwich	146,600
Nottingham	231,800
Oxford	12,600
Plawsworth (Chester le Street)	340,000
Plymouth	22,400
Preston	249,000
Reading	85,300
Sheffield	265,200
St Albans	226,800
Stafford	17,400
Swansea	188,700
Truro	74,800
Warwick	6,600
Winchester	240,700
Woolwich	45,500
Worcester	32,600
Total	4.9 million

Legal Aid

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the *(a)* absolute cost and *(b)* cost per head of population of legal aid systems in other countries. [63097]

Mr Djanogly: The research report "International comparison of publicly funded legal services and justice systems" provides robust comparisons of legal aid spending in England and Wales and a selection of European and non-European countries, as well as an assessment of the difficulties of international comparisons in this area. It is published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/comparison-public-fund-legal-services-justice-systems.pdf

In addition, the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) publishes reports on "European judicial systems: Efficiency and quality of justice" which are updated every two years. These reports contain a range of information on judicial systems, including legal aid, for a broad selection of European countries. The latest report is available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/cepej/evaluation/default_en.asp

Offenders: Training

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to his Department's Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", page 56, paragraph 193, what progress his Department has made in creating a new test to focus indefinite imprisonment under indeterminate sentences for public protection on those who clearly pose a very serious risk of future harm; [59917]

(2) with reference to his Department's Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders", which crimes will no longer be eligible for indeterminate sentences for public protection as a result of his proposed changes. [59918]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We will be conducting an urgent review of sentencing for serious sexual and violent offenders, with a view to replacing the current IPP regime with a determinate sentencing framework, which would be better understood by the public and command greater confidence. The review will also cover detention for public protection, the equivalent sentence to an IPP for juveniles.

Personal Injury: Applications

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendation of Lord Justice Jackson on payments of referral fees for personal injury claims. [62952]

Mr Djanogly: I will provide the hon. Gentleman with a response as soon as possible.

Prison Service: Contracts

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons his Department is considering for market testing; and if he will make a statement. [63036]

Mr Blunt: I will provide the hon. Lady with a reply as soon as possible.

Risk Assessment

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a risk assessment was undertaken as part of the transfer of HMP Birmingham to G4S. [62853]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service has undertaken an ongoing and thorough assessment of risk regarding the competition and mobilisation of HMP Birmingham. The risk management process in place is compliant with departmental and governmental best practice.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Architecture: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how much grant in aid funding his Department allocated to architecture in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [62135]

(2) how much grant in aid funding his Department allocated to the funding of design in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [62110]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My Department gave grant in aid to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) for the promotion of education or high standards in, and appreciation of, architecture and the design of the built environment. The amount CABE received from 2009 to 2012 (excluding the sea change grant programme) is in the following table:

	£000
2009-10	4,789
2010-11	4,690
2011-12	3,523

The grant in aid in 2011-12 is primarily for CABE's costs of closure.

Arts Council England allocates grant in aid to its regularly funded organisations through the sub-art form classifier 'Architecture/landscape/environmental art' and the 2009-12 figures are in the following table:

	2009-10	*2010-11*	£ *2011-12*
Architecture Centre Network	122,489	125,167	116,530
Kielder Partnership	40,185	41,064	38,230
Made	34,241	34,989	32,575
Northern Architecture	44,652	44,429	41,363
The Architecture Foundation	114,610	114,037	106,168
The Bristol Centre for the Advancement of Architecture Ltd	55,677	56,894	52,968
Total	411,854	416,580	387,834

Design does not receive grant in aid from my Department.

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the recommendations of the Bailey review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. [62051]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I have had no discussions. However, my Department will continue to work closely with the Department for Education in relation to the recommendations of the Bailey review, including those relevant to Ofcom.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the recommendations of the Bailey review on the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. [62170]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: While I have had no specific discussions, the ministerial statement made by the Minister of State for Children and Families on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 8WS, made clear the Government's position. Furthermore, my officials have been liaising closely with the Department for Education with regard to the Government's proposals to monitor the implementation of the Bailey review's recommendations.

Film Innovation Fund

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which body is responsible for allocation of the film innovation fund; and when the funding will be disbursed. [63099]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: All lottery film funding, including funding for innovation, is now the responsibility of the British Film Institute (BFI). The role of innovation in supporting British film is being considered as part of the current film policy review.

Ofcom

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 136W, on Ofcom, when he plans to publish Ofcom's report on the workability of sections 17 and 18 of the Digital Economy Act 2010. [62134]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As I informed the hon. Gentleman on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 136W, we have received the report on the workability of sections 17 and 18 of the Digital Economy Act and will publish it in due course. We need to give it proper consideration before responding.

Sports: Betting

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when his Department plans to implement the outcome of its investigation into using cash in dormant betting accounts to set up a capital fund to improve local sports facilities and support sports clubs. [63098]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The right hon. Member for Bath (Mr Foster) has completed his review of whether money lying in dormant betting accounts and from unclaimed winnings could be used to improve sports facilities and delivered his report to the Government in December 2010. The Minister responsible for tourism and heritage, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose), is considering the report in detail and will decide on the next steps after the Government have reached a conclusion on the regulatory future of remote gambling.

Sports: VAT

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will provide assistance to sport clubs and teams adversely affected by the treatment for VAT purposes by HM Revenue and Customs of sports league block bookings. [63038]

Hugh Robertson: I commissioned a report by the Sport and Recreation Alliance on reducing bureaucracy in sports. The recommendations are being considered and officials have had discussions with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). However, VAT policy is a matter for HMRC.

TREASURY

Arch Cru

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of initiating an investigation into the role of Capita Financial Group in relation to the collapse of Arch Cru funds. [62673]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for the regulation of financial services firms and operates independently from the Government under the powers given to it in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. HM Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services, but does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own.

On 21 June 2011, the FSA announced a £54 million package for investors in Arch Cru funds. Established voluntarily by Capita Financial Managers Limited, BNY Mellon Trust, Depositary UK Limited and HSBC Bank plc, this package will be used to make payments to eligible investors in Arch Cru funds, and will assist the return of a substantial part of their investment to them. Capita Financial Managers has committed to contact investors with further information before the end of August.

Aviation: Pollution Control

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal steps his Department is taking to incentivise the aviation industry to *(a)* reduce aircraft noise, *(b)* reduce carbon dioxide emissions and *(c)* improve its economic competitiveness. [62622]

Justine Greening: Aviation will join the EU emission trading system from January 2012. The aviation sector in the UK will thus begin to take greater responsibility for its carbon emissions and impact on the global environment.

The Government also undertook a consultation on the UK's air passenger duty from 23 March to 17 June 2011. The Government will consider the views and evidence submitted by interested parties and will publish a summary of responses in the autumn.

Banks: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the distribution to the public of shares in banks in which UK Financial Investments manages the stake owned by the Government. [62641]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in financial institutions at an arm's length and commercial basis. UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

UKFI will look at the full range of alternatives for divestment and make recommendations based on market conditions, on an assessment of investor demand and on value for money considerations at the time when considering a transaction.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to his Department of *(a)* distributing to the public shares in banks in which UK Financial Investments manages the stake owned by the Government and *(b)* continuing to manage the Government's stake in such banks through UK Financial Investments. [62642]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's shareholding in financial institutions. UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

The Treasury and UKFI are continuing to assess all potential options to realise value for taxpayers through the disposal of these shares and will explore the distribution of shares to the public alongside ongoing preparations for other disposal options.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any HM Treasury officials are working exclusively on the proposal that people on the electoral role may be given shares in the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds Banking Group. [63039]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in Lloyds Banking Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland. UKFI's objective is to dispose of the investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

The Treasury and UKFI are continuing to assess all potential options to realise value for taxpayers through the disposal of these shares and will explore the distribution of shares to the public alongside ongoing preparations for other disposal options.

Economic Situation: Greece

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of a Greek non-credit event debt renegotiation on *(a)* UK Financial Investments, *(b)* the UK financial services sector and *(c)* the credit default swap market. [62767]

Mr Hoban: The UK authorities carry out assessments on a wide range of risks. The Bank of England's financial stability report sets out the impact of key risks on UK Financial Stability.

UK Financial Investments (UKFI) continually reviews its strategy on the management of the Government investee banks. UKFI looks at the full range of alternatives for the investments, and makes its recommendations based on market conditions, an assessment of investor demand and on value for money considerations.

Data on external claims of UK-owned monetary financial institutions, and of their branches and subsidiaries abroad, are available on the Bank of England website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/Bankstats/2011/Jun/TabC4.2.xls

This includes UK banking groups' direct exposures, as well as credit default swaps and other derivatives exposures.

Working Families Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many couples in receipt of working families tax credit made a claim based on working between 16 and 24 hours a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [61346]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on hours worked by claimants of tax credits is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits statistics April 2011". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-apr11.pdf

As of April 2011, there were approximately 280,000 couples in receipt of tax credits where the main worker worked between 16 and 24 hours per week.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63252]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office has no plans to generate low-carbon energy.

The Department has, however, taken a number of steps to reduce its carbon footprint. These include reducing the need for travel between London and Belfast through the use of video conferencing facilities, introducing a biomass heating system for Hillsborough castle and installation of solar panels for water heating at Hillsborough castle.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62999]

Mr Paterson: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses:

2005-06:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the cost for 2010-11 are being compiled and due for release in July 2011.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect this data.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is shown in the following table.

	Number
September 2010	8
October 2010	23
November 2010	43
December 2010	29
January 2011	27
February 2011	29
March 2011	40
Total	199

Devolution

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* Prime Minister on the devolution of further powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [62759]

Mr Paterson: I have had no recent discussions with either the Northern Ireland Executive or the Prime Minister on the devolution of further powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly. We will consider any requests for further devolution that have widespread support in Northern Ireland.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Meters

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the framework for the procurement of the first generation of communication and data service contracts to be developed. [62231]

Charles Hendry: The strategy for the procurement of first-generation DCC service providers is currently being prepared by officials in DECC, with input from stakeholders as well as Infrastructure UK, which has expertise in large-scale public sector procurement. We intend to complete the strategy and begin the procurement process as soon as is practicable. We will set out further details of the process and the timetable for the procurement process when we are in a position to do so.

Natural Gas

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of shale gas extraction in the UK on *(a)* the amount of renewable electricity generated in the UK, *(b)* achieving domestic emissions targets and *(c)* levels of energy security; and if he will make a statement. [62813]

Charles Hendry: In the UK, shale gas has not yet been commercially proven. Analysis of the potential effects of extraction on development of renewable energy in the UK, domestic emissions targets and UK energy security would in the circumstances be subject to large uncertainties, so any such assessment would be speculative.

Oil: Reserves

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many barrels of oil the UK sold from its emergency oil reserves in June 2011. [62831]

Charles Hendry: The UK Government do not have emergency oil reserves as such. Instead, the UK obligates oil importers and refiners to hold oil stocks that can be supplied to the market to compensate for supply shortages under powers in the Energy Act 1976. In the event of a supply disruption, obligations on individual oil companies are lowered so that they can make these stocks available to the market.

In response to the International Energy Agency's call for collective release of 60 million barrels, the UK has lowered the compulsory stocking obligations on oil companies by two and a half days to release around 3 million barrels over an initial period of 30 days from 25 June 2011.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the recent decision by members of the International Energy Agency to release oil reserves for sale. [62832]

Charles Hendry: On June 23 the UK joined its partners in the International Energy Agency (IEA) in releasing oil stocks to the market. A total of 60 million barrels of oil was made available to the market over 30 days, with the UK contributing some 3 million barrels.

The IEA assessed that unrest in Libya had removed 132 million barrels of light, sweet crude from the market by the end of May, and that normal seasonal increase in refiner demand expected for this summer will exacerbate the shortfall further. Greater tightness in the oil market could threaten to undermine the global economic recovery.

The IEA collective action is intended to complement increases in output already announced by producer countries such as Saudi Arabia. It will help to bridge the gap until sufficient additional oil from them reaches global markets.

In conjunction with the IEA, the UK will be participating in monitoring the volumes of stock released, both domestically and internationally. Oil stocks are expected to begin to be released to the market from early July.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Wales and *(b)* the First Minister of the Welsh Government on his Department's feasibility report on tidal energy systems in the Severn estuary; and if he will make a statement. [62002]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials have regular discussions with their counterparts in Wales on a range of issues, including tidal energy in the Severn estuary.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Civil Partnerships

2. **Mr Bradshaw:** To ask the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry), representing the Church Commissioners, where the authority to permit the registration of civil partnerships in churches will reside following the enactment of the Government's legislative proposals. [62904]

Tony Baldry: The Church of England response to the Government's consultation document was submitted on 23 June and endorsed the denominational opting-in mechanism that the Government had proposed. It said that in the case of the Church of England that would mean that churches could not become approved premises for the registration of civil partnerships until and unless the General Synod had first decided as a matter of policy that that would be possible.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Assets

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether receipts from the sale of assets owned by regional development agencies are reflected in the spending plans of his Department for *(a)* 2012-13 and *(b)* 2013-14. [47411]

Chris Grayling: Ministerial responsibility for regional development agencies lies with other Government Departments. This Department is not expecting any receipts from the sale of assets owned by these agencies and has therefore not taken account of such receipts in its spending plans for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to cease to fund any of its functions over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [55181]

Chris Grayling: The Department will continue to provide its core functions and deliver services to millions of customers over the period of the spending review. However, the challenging financial settlement for this period means that services and functions will need to be provided more efficiently. The Department will reduce the size of its corporate centre by 40% and plans to realise savings of 25% through streamlining and modernising its frontline activities.

Measures to reduce the costs of benefits processing will include, for example, shifting from paper to digital-based services, sharing information more efficiently within and between Departments as well as action to tackle fraud and error.

The Department's structural reform priorities over the spending review period are set out in the business plan.

Efficiency Savings

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has for efficiency savings in his Department over the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the savings which will accrue from each measure; [63094]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of staff in each business unit of his Department who will be *(a)* made compulsorily redundant, *(b)* offered early retirement and *(c)* offered voluntary redundancy in each of the next three years. [63095]

Chris Grayling: The Department plans to realise substantial efficiency savings over the period of the spending review through measures which will deliver both savings and improved customer service, as well as focussing its resources on key reforms of the welfare system.

These plans include a reduction in the size of the corporate centre by up to 40%, primarily driven by an organisational redesign and reductions in contractual spend, for example on estates and IT. There are parallel measures to reduce the costs of benefits processing by 25% through streamlining and modernising frontline activities. These measures include, for example, shifting from paper to digital-based services and sharing information more efficiently within and between Departments. Specific actions to improve the efficiency, ease and speed of the Department's frontline activities are included in the business plan.

These plans may lead to offers of voluntary exit or voluntary redundancy or, if absolutely necessary, compulsory redundancy at some stage over the next three years. However, at present there are no specific estimates of numbers as these are dependent on various factors, particularly the potential for redeployment of staff in light of future new work relating to the introduction of universal credit.

Employment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults not in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance and in receipt of an inactive benefit entered employment in the last 12 months after a period of joblessness; and if he will make a statement. [58012]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

Claimants leaving benefits are not required to inform the Department of their destinations and hence the information that is collected is incomplete.

DWP analysts have been investigating the scope for producing regular statistics on benefit destinations, as well as improving consistency of use of this data across

the analytical community. The destinations statistics have not been used in the public domain before, mainly because of gaps in coverage, and so are considered not robust enough for external use.

Employment Schemes: Hearing Impairment

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received from disability organisations on the consideration given to deaf people as part of the proposed Work programme. [52134]

Chris Grayling: During the design and tendering stages of the Work programme, DWP received a number of representations from a wide range of providers and customer representative groups. The Department responds to these individually and does not record them by category of disability.

Pensioners: Poverty

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2011, *Official Report*, columns 495-6W, on pensioners: poverty, whether his Department has previously made any assessment of future trends in pensioner poverty. [61663]

Steve Webb: In recent years, the Department has not published assessments of future trends in pensioner poverty. At various times, some internal analysis of possible pensioner poverty trends has been produced as part of advice given to Ministers for the purpose of Government policy formulation.

At the moment, macroeconomic uncertainty and the Department's significant programme of welfare and pension reform mean that it is not possible to produce any reliable estimate of future trends in pensioner poverty.

Social Fund

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people made more than *(a)* three and *(b)* 10 applications to the social fund in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [62506]

Steve Webb: The information requested is provided as follows.

2009-10 in Great Britain	*Number of people*
Making more than three applications to the discretionary social fund	492,660
Making more than 10 applications to the discretionary social fund	57,700

Notes:
1. 'Applications to the social fund' has been interpreted as applications to the discretionary social fund as people make a claim rather than an application to the regulated social fund.
2. The discretionary social fund refers to applications made for crisis loans, budgeting loans and community care grants. Applications referred to above can be to any of these three parts of the discretionary social fund in any combination.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
4. The number of people making more than 10 applications is included in the number of people making more than three applications.

Source:
Scan of social fund computer system

Social Security Benefits: Mental Health

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has asked Professor Malcolm Harrington to consider the effects of debt and debt enforcement on the mental health of benefit claimants and its effect on their capability to work as part of his review of the work capability assessment; and if he will make a statement. [63190]

Chris Grayling: Professor Harrington's scope is to review the fairness and effectiveness of the work capability assessment (WCA). He has not specifically been asked to consider the effects of debt, particularly on the wider benefit claimant population.

Universal Credit

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what options he is considering for support of child care costs through the proposed universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [62439]

Chris Grayling: We have announced that support for child care costs will be provided in universal credit by an additional element, and that we aim to extend support to those working fewer than 16 hours. We are still considering what rates to set.

We recently held productive discussions with MPs, peers and stakeholder groups during the Commons Committee stage of the Welfare Reform Bill. We are considering the advice and suggestions raised in those and have already promised to return to the House with more information when it is ready, and we expect to do this in time for discussion and scrutiny of the Bill in the House of Lords.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Government Food Procurement

15. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made in developing Government buying standards for food procurement. [62891]

Richard Benyon: The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for South East Cambridgeshire (Mr Paice), announced earlier this month that for the first time the Government had introduced Government buying standards for food and catering services.

More sustainable food sourcing, healthier food choices, resource efficiency and waste reduction are all covered in these standards.

The Government are leading by example on sustainable food. GBS are mandatory for central Government Departments and will be promoted to the wider public sector.

Sewerage

16. **Mark Pawsey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to implement the adoption of private drains and sewers by local water companies. [62892]

Richard Benyon: I am pleased to say that the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains to the statutory sewerage undertakers in England will take place on 1 October this year. Regulations to provide for the transfer, involving those sewers and drains that connect to the public sewerage system, will take effect on 1 July and the undertakers will then start the formal notification process. Private sewer owners need take no action to make the transfer happen.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* officials in her Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within her Department's responsibilities. [60707]

Richard Benyon: The review of employment-related laws being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is a cross-Government initiative.

All Departments with a responsibility for employment-related law are engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

Departments are engaging with their stakeholders on issues relating to the employment law review in accordance with their standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the address is of each office property occupied by her Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61177]

Richard Benyon: I have deposited the information requested in the House Library.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make it her policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of her Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61710]

Richard Benyon: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave him on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 63-64W.

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61721]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* For 2011-12 NDPBs have estimated exit costs of approximately £30 million. Detailed information is not yet available for the remainder of the spending review.

Food: Prices

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking in response to recent trends in food prices. [62882]

Mrs Spelman: The Foresight report to the Government's chief scientific adviser on food and farming futures highlighted the need for transparency in global food markets and liberalisation of international trade to address price volatility.

The Government are committed to promoting better functioning of agricultural markets to help mitigate future price spikes.

Last week I attended the G20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting, where we agreed measures to increase production and provide the market with better information about supply and demand.

I wish to see further liberalisation of international trade which, as the Foresight project states, will help dampen price volatility.

Local Government Finance

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much each local authority received from each *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital funding stream from her Department in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12; how much funding her Department allocated from each such stream in each year; and what the change was in the level of funding in each such stream between those years in (A) cash and (B) real terms. [49258]

Richard Benyon: Details of the revenue and capital grants paid by this Department direct to local authorities in 2010-11 and the amounts that have been allocated to local authorities so far in 2011-12 have been placed in the House Libraries.

Offshore Industry: Arctic

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on securing an agreement at global level on a moratorium on drilling for oil or gas in the Arctic Circle. [62740]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

Well-supplied oil and gas markets from a diverse range of suppliers are an important foundation for global growth and for the UK's prosperity. It is the sovereign right of every nation to decide whether to produce resources within its jurisdiction, and we would not press for any agreement to limit this on a geographical basis. We would expect all oil and gas drilling, wherever

it is carried out, to be properly regulated and licensed and carried out in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Peak Oil

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to address the challenges posed by peak oil. [60097]

Richard Benyon: The Government are working domestically and internationally to help investment and price stability in the oil sector. In addition, the Department works closely with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on climate change and energy efficiency policies that will reduce both the UK's carbon emissions and help to ease our demand for oil. Additional areas where my Department is working to address challenges imposed by peak oil are outlined as follows.

Rural Communities

We are working closely with DECC to ensure that Government policy benefits rural communities, including initiatives aimed at addressing fuel poverty, improving household energy efficiency and encouraging better take-up of renewable energy options. We are also working with the Office of Fair Trading as it undertakes its review of the off-grid energy market, as a significant proportion of rural households are off the gas grid and rely on heating oil and other relatively expensive forms of heating fuel.

British Farming

Under the rural development programme for England, the Government can support actions by farmers to improve their resource efficiency, for example by encouraging the adoption of new technologies and supporting innovative practices in their use of resources derived from oil.

Public Sector: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 77-79WS, on food and catering services (Government Buying Standards), what steps she plans to take to encourage the rest of the public sector to comply with Government buying standards for food and catering services. [62685]

Mr Paice: With the Government buying standards we are setting a credible and workable example of sustainable food procurement that all public sector bodies can follow.

We are working with major local authority buying organisations in the PR05 group to encourage the voluntary inclusion of Government buying standards into national food and catering procurement, which will enable public sector bodies to achieve cost savings without compromising on quality or sustainability.

In addition, DEFRA is developing training for catering managers and procurers in the public sector on efficient and sustainable food procurement based around the Government buying standards and using examples of best practice from around the country.

We believe that local people are best placed to decide what is best in their communities and therefore have published guidance for buyers alongside the standards.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many placement orders have ended before adoption has been granted by *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* gender of the child placed in each year since 2004-05. [62305]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The number of children whose placement orders ended before an adoption order was granted, broken down by age, ethnicity and gender is shown in the following table. The number of children who ceased to be looked after while subject to a placement order other than those who were adopted, broken down by age, ethnicity and gender, is also shown in the table. Placement orders were introduced in December 2005. Therefore, the first full year for which this information is available is the year ending 31 March 2007.

Children looked after whose placement order ceased before an adoption order was granted during the year ending 31 March, by age, ethnicity and gender[1, 2]. Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010. Coverage: England

	2007[3]	2008	2009	Number 2010
Children whose placement order ceased and continued to be looked after under a different legal status	10	40	60	80
Age when placement order ceased (years)				
Under 1	10	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
1 to 4	[5]—	10	10	30
5 to 9	0	10	40	30
10 to 15	[5]—	10	10	10
16 and over	0	[5]—	0	0
Ethnic origin				
White	10	30	50	60
Mixed	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	10
Asian	0	0	[5]—	[5]—

Children looked after whose placement order ceased before an adoption order was granted during the year ending 31 March, by age, ethnicity and gender[1, 2]. Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2010. Coverage: England

	2007[3]	2008	2009	2010
				Number
Black	0	0	[5]—	[5]—
Other	0	0	0	[5]—
Gender				
Male	[5]—	20	40	50
Female	10	20	30	30
Children who ceased to be looked after while subject to a placement order, other than those who were adopted[4]	10	20	40	20
Age on ceasing (years)				
Under 1	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	0
1 to 4	[5]—	10	30	10
5 to 9	[5]—	[5]—	10	10
10 to 15	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
16 and over	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Ethnic origin				
White	[5]—	10	40	20
Mixed	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
Asian	0	0	0	0
Black	[5]—	0	10	[5]—
Other	0	0	0	0
Gender				
Male	[5]—	10	20	10
Female	[5]—	10	20	10

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[3] Figures are low in 2007 as placement orders were introduced in December 2005 and the first full year for which the information is available is the year ending 31 March 2007.
[4] This includes children who ceased to be looked after for the following reasons: died, care taken over by another local authority in the UK, returned home to live with parents, residence order granted, special guardianship order granted, moved into independent living arrangement or ceased to be looked after for any other unspecified reason.
[5] Figures not shown in order to protect confidentiality.
Source:
SSDA 903

Children: Protection

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will assess the effect on child protection services in Bolton metropolitan borough of reductions to local authority budgets. [60940]

Sarah Teather: It is for local authorities to determine the allocation of their resources and I am sure that in doing so they will be taking into account both their statutory responsibilities and the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people. The Department for Education has not made its own assessment, but I am aware of the research that has been carried out by other organisations. I am pleased that this research suggests that in making difficult decisions most local authorities are taking steps to protect the most vulnerable children.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will amend Chapter 4, paragraph 4.59 of the "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" document to ensure that supply agencies are obliged to provide to schools and further education colleges direct evidence that the requisite safety checks have been carried out on supply staff prior to an individual taking up their post. [62537]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* In light of the proposed changes to the vetting and barring scheme and criminal records regime, and subject to the passage of the Protection of Freedoms Bill, the Government will be revisiting the current guidance on recruitment in schools. This will include reviewing the guidance on use of agency and other temporary workers. My Department is giving careful consideration to the issues, including the suggestion that schools and colleges should be provided with direct evidence that checks have been carried out. In our considerations, we will be mindful of the importance of avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy for schools and the recruitment industry.

Education: Arts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will prepare an impact assessment on the effects of his Department's education reforms on the arts and culture sector. [62241]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The organisations within the arts and culture sector are vital partners in achieving cultural education for all children. Our schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching",

stated our commitment to ensuring that every child experiences a high-quality cultural education. Following a well-received review of music education earlier this year, Darren Henley, managing director of Classic FM, is currently undertaking a review of cultural education and we expect to receive from him, later this year, recommendations on how best to achieve this.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to publish the terms of reference for the internal review of personal, social, health and economic education, including sex and relationship education announced in his Department's publication "The Importance of Teaching: the Schools White Paper 2010"; and if he will make a statement. [59395]

Mr Gibb: I can confirm that we will publish the remit for the personal, social, health and economic review on the Department's website. The remit for the review is still being considered and further details will be available in due course.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to publish his Department's review of personal, social, health and economic education. [59419]

Mr Gibb: When the review of personal, social, health and economic education is launched, we plan to publish the remit on the Department's website.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he expects his Department's review of personal, social, health and economic education to be completed. [59517]

Mr Gibb: We will set a deadline to complete the review of personal, social, health and economic education in the remit to be published.

Primary Education: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each of the 200 worst performing primary schools in England. [61156]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* The Department does not intend to publish a list of the 200 worst performing primary schools in England.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on ensuring that children in receipt of free school meals are adequately nourished during school holidays. [62503]

Mr Gibb: Free school meals are provided to eligible pupils attending school during term time only. When children are not at school, the benefits system should provide support for poorer families to provide sufficient nourishment for their children.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 60376 on contracts held by his Department, which was tabled on 14 June 2011 for answer on 16 June 2011. [62770]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* I refer the hon. Lady to the response issued on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 572-75W.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-combat vehicles leased or hired by his Department were manufactured in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* another EU member state and *(c)* a country outside the EU. [62675]

Peter Luff: Information on the origin of manufacture of vehicles leased to the Ministry of Defence is available only from the contractors in question, and I will write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as this has been provided. Information on the origin of manufacture of hired vehicles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62728]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has awarded five contracts to Capita or its associated companies since May 2010, with the following value ranges:

Contract value banding (£)	*Number of contracts*
5-10 million	2
100,000-250,000	2
Under 100,000	1
Total contracts	5

This information was taken from the MOD's financial management shared service centre (FMSSC) contracts database as at 31 May 2011.

G4S

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds with G4S; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58679]

Peter Luff: In the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence made payments against 11 contracts with G4S or associated companies, in the follow value ranges:

Contract value banding	*Number of active contracts*
£25 to £50 million	1
£1 to £5 million	2
£500,000 to £1 million	2
£100,000 to £250,000	1

Contract value banding	Number of active contracts
Under £100,000	5
Total	11

Detailed information on the specific purpose of each contract is not held centrally; I will write to the right hon. Gentleman with further details.

IBM

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds with IBM; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58693]

Peter Luff: In the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence made payments against 24 contracts with IBM or associated companies, in the following value ranges:

Contract value banding	Number of active contracts
£100 to £250 million	3
£50 to £100 million	1
£25 to £50 million	1
£5 to £10 million	3
£1 to £5 million	7
£250,000 to £500,000	2
£100,000 to £250,000	2
Under £100,000	5
Total	24

Detailed information on the specific purpose of each contract is not held centrally; I will write to the right hon. Gentleman with further details.

Military Aircraft

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon aircraft were grounded on *(a)* 23 March, *(b)* 6 April, *(c)* 20 April, *(d)* 4 May, *(e)* 18 May, *(f)* 1 June and *(g)* 15 June 2011 because parts had been removed to keep other aircraft airborne. [62614]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 30 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 389W. The three aircraft from the sustainment fleet, which were not available for flying, were used as donor aircraft for spares throughout the dates listed. In addition, one aircraft was declared temporarily unserviceable on 15 June, following the removal of a part to meet urgent operational needs.

Serco

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department holds with Serco; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of each such contract is. [58656]

Peter Luff: In the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry of Defence made payments against 74 contracts with Serco or associated companies, in the following value ranges:

Contract value banding	Number of active contracts
Over £500 million	1
£250 to £500 million	1
£100 to £250 million	1
£50 to £100 million	4
£25 to £50 million	7
£10 to £25 million	6
£5 to £10 million	8
£1 to £5 million	8
£500,000 to £1 million	10
£250,000 to £500,000	3
£100,000 to £250,000	7
Under £100,000	18
Total	74

Detailed information on the specific purpose of each contract is not held centrally; I will write to the right hon. Gentleman with further details.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) who the partners in the Taranis project are; and what the timetable is for the project; [62280]

(2) how many unmanned combat air vehicle projects his Department is engaged in; and with which partners it is so engaged; [62286]

(3) what progress his Department has made together with its French counterparts on the development of an unmanned combat air vehicle. [62287]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is undertaking work on the Taranis technology demonstrator in partnership with a BAE Systems-led industry team comprising Rolls-Royce, QinetiQ and GE Aviation. Initial ground-based testing began in 2010 with flight trials scheduled to take place in either 2011 or 2012.

The Department is also engaged in a further unmanned combat air system (UCAS) concept design and engineering study with a BAE Systems-led team that includes Rolls-Royce and Selex. This will help inform new concept designs for a future operational UCAS.

Discussions have taken place, and will continue, between MOD officials and their French counterparts about the future development of unmanned combat air vehicles, but these are at a very early stage.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service: Pensions

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 393W, on My Civil Service Pension, how many employees are standing for election to the Employee Partnership Council (EPC); whether trade unions will be represented on the EPC; and when the election results are expected to be announced. [63126]

Mr Maude: Thirteen employees stood for election to the Employee Partnership Council. Trade union members and representatives were able to stand for election; 340 members of MyCSP voted and the six successful candidates have now been elected.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1), pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 393W, on My Civil Service Pension, how many *(a)* face-to-face, *(b)* written, *(c)* electronic, *(d)* telephone and *(e)* other consultations have been undertaken with MyCSP employees; how many employees have been consulted in total; and how many (i) supported, (ii) opposed and (iii) were undecided on the mutual joint venture; [63127]

(2) when he last consulted *(a)* MyCSP employees and *(b)* trade unions on the proposed mutualisation of MyCSP. [63129]

Mr Maude: Employee engagement at My Civil Service Pensions has been extensive. All employees have been consulted and open communication is a core part of everyday business. To support local engagement, the chief executive and his leadership team have conducted two rounds of face-to-face roadshows at all locations so far this year. The most recent all-employee conference call was on 21 June. The most recent all-employee newsletter was published on 27 June. Regular engagement with trade unions remains a priority; the most recent meeting was held on 15 June, with another planned for 4 July.

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he expects to announce the private sector partner in the mutual joint venture proposed for the administration of MyCSP. [63128]

Mr Maude: I aim to announce the successful joint venture partner before the end of the year.

Life Expectancy: Older People

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy was for people aged 65 years living in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in the latest period for which figures are available. [63287]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average life expectancy was for people aged 65 years living in (a) Dartford constituency and (b) Kent in the latest period for which figures are available. (63287)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three-year rolling averages and are available for all current administrative and health areas. Figures for parliamentary constituencies are not readily available.

Table 1 as follows provides the period life expectancy at age 65 years for men and women living in (a) Dartford local authority district and (b) Kent county, for 2007-09 (the latest figures available). Ninety-five per cent of the area covered by Dartford parliamentary constituency falls within Dartford local authority district.

Period life expectancies at birth and at age 65 for males and females in the UK, constituent countries, regions, counties, and local areas, from 1991-93 to 2007-09, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Table 1: Period life expectancy at age 65[1], Dartford local authority district and Kent county[2], 2007-09[3]

	Years of life	
Area	*Men*	*Women*
Dartford	18	19
Kent	18	21

[1] Period life expectancy at age 65 is an estimate of the average number of years a 65 year old would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout the rest of his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a 65 year old living in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those currently living in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[3] Three year rolling average, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

National School of Government

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what courses the National School of Government has offered in the last 12 months; and how many Government officials have completed each such course in that period. [62947]

Mr Maude: The National School of Government has delivered 809 events to a domestic audience for the 12 month period from 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011. These events were attended by 33,254 UK Government officials.

A copy of the table showing the events that the National School delivered during the 12-month period will be placed in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Closures

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has provided to hospital trusts on the closure of accident and emergency departments; and if he will make a statement. [62945]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not issued any recent advice to hospital trusts on the closure of accident and emergency departments. In July 2010, the Department issued guidance setting out how the national health service should assure any proposals for significant service change against the Secretary of State's four tests. This guidance can be obtained from the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Letters andcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117899

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS accident and emergency departments closed in each of the last three years; and how many such departments he expects to close in the next 12 months. [62946]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not available centrally. The hon. Gentleman may wish to contact each strategic health authority for the information.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice his Department provides to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* acute NHS trusts on the provision of suitable alternative provision following the closure of an accident and emergency department; and if he will make a statement. [62948]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for national health service commissioners to determine and secure the services necessary to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. When considering any reconfiguration of accident and emergency services, commissioners should ensure that the public can continue to access high quality care. Any such decisions should also be assured against the Secretary of State's four tests for service change, which are that proposals must demonstrate: support from general practitioner commissioners; strengthened patient and public engagement; a clear clinical evidence base; and support for patient choice.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the required level of public consultation prior to the closure of accident and emergency departments; and if he will make a statement. [62951]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department issued guidance entitled "Changing for the better" in 2008 on the process underpinning changes to acute NHS services. This guidance set out that under section 242 of the National Health Service Act 2006, national health service organisations must make arrangements that secure the involvement of people in the planning and development of services. This guidance was strengthened in 2010 through the Secretary of State's four tests, which included the requirement that commissioners must demonstrate evidence of strengthened patient and public engagement. The Secretary of State's tests ensure that service change must demonstrate:

a clear clinical evidence base underpinning and proposals, which focuses on improved outcomes for patients;

clear support for proposals from GPs as the commissioners of local services;

strengthened arrangements for public engagement; and

support for patient choice.

When planning involvement activity, commissioners need to think about proportionality and appropriateness. Should commissioners determine that a formal consultation is appropriate, this should follow the Government's code of practice on consultation. Copies of the "Changing for the better" guidance and the Government code of practice on consultation have already been placed in the Library.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62723]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has awarded 166 contracts to Capita and its related organisations since May 2010.

The following table shows the number of contracts and monetary value.

Supplier name	*Number of purchase orders*	*Purchase order value (£)*
Capita Business Services Ltd	7	348,110.00
Capita Health Solutions Colchester	8	2,959.21
Capita Resourcing Ltd	118	2,065,079.71
Capita Secure Information Systems Ltd	1	2,500.00
Capita SHG Resourcing	11	787,219.10
Capita Symonds Ltd	21	187,743.91
Grand total	166	3,393,611.93

Notes:
A purchase order represents an individual contract with Capita.

Information and Communications Technology: Security

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many IT security breaches each NHS trust has reported to his Department in each of the last three years. [62950]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All national health service trusts should systematically record security breaches, but information on these is not collected by the Department or centrally within the NHS.

Malton Hospital

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications of the closure at short notice of operating theatres at Malton hospital. [62651]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Yorkshire and the Humber has advised that on 20 June 2011 Scarborough and North East Yorkshire healthcare NHS trust (SNEY) suspended usage of the operating theatre at Malton community hospital on the grounds of patient safety. This is a matter for the national health service locally, and as such the Department has made no assessment of the implications of this closure. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of SNEY for further information.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of maintenance of the operating theatres at Malton hospital in each of the last five years. [62652]

Mr Simon Burns: Maintenance of the operating theatre at Malton community hospital is a matter for the national health service locally. As such, the Department has made no assessment of maintenance levels relating to this facility. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the

chief executive of North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust for further information.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the arrangements whereby the facilities at Malton hospital are owned by North Yorkshire and York primary care trust and services are provided by hospital trusts in York and Scarborough; and if he will make a statement. [62654]

Mr Simon Burns: Agreements of this nature are a matter for the national health service locally, and as such the Department has made no assessment of the effectiveness of this arrangement. NHS Yorkshire and the Humber has confirmed that Scarborough and North East Yorkshire healthcare NHS trust provides services at Malton community hospital, which is owned by North Yorkshire and York primary care trust. My hon. Friend may wish to approach the chief executive of NHS North Yorkshire and York for further information.

Mental Health Services

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish an implementation plan for his Department's mental health strategy, "No Health without Mental Health", setting out the steps *(a)* the Government, *(b)* commissioners, *(c)* providers and *(d)* local authorities will take to deliver improved mental health outcomes for people of all ages. [62644]

Paul Burstow: The implementation of the mental health strategy, "No Health Without Mental Health" is being overseen by a ministerial advisory group of which I am chair. The group's papers can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127788?PageOperation=email

Commissioners, providers and local authorities are represented on the group and all will actively contribute to the development of the implementation programme plan, which will be published in due course. The group are next scheduled to meet on 5 July 2011.

NHS: Accountability

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to publish guidance on the accountabilities and relationships between the NHS Commissioning Board, commissioning groups and health and wellbeing boards. [62643]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published the response to the NHS Future Forum's report on 21 June 2011, which outlined in greater detail how we anticipate the future landscape of health care to develop. The Department continues to work closely with stakeholders to develop the arrangements of the NHS Commissioning Board, clinical commissioning groups and health and wellbeing boards, and further detail will be available shortly.

Pharmacy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the role of community pharmacists in the NHS. [62941]

Mr Simon Burns: We receive regular correspondence from the public and representative bodies, and questions from Members of both Houses, concerning the roles undertaken by community pharmacists in the national health service to optimise the use of medicines and support public health.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* rate of and *(b)* practice of (i) merger and (ii) transfer of responsibilities between primary care trusts in the last six months. [62980]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in the 2011-12 Operating Framework, the 151 primary care trusts (PCTs) across England have come together to form 51 PCT clusters under single executive teams. These clusters are designed to ensure that the PCTs within them are able to sustain management capacity and capability to deliver their responsibilities while also reducing their administration costs until PCTs are abolished in April 2013, subject to parliamentary approval of the Health and Social Care Bill.

These new clusters are not statutory bodies and do not replace PCTs, which retain all their statutory responsibilities.

The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12 also stipulated that strategic health authorities would oversee the development of PCT clusters and ensure local coherence across the local development of the new architecture.

Primary Care Trusts: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will take ownership of the infrastructure and facilities in North Yorkshire and York currently owned by the primary care trusts after 2013. [62653]

Mr Simon Burns: On 6 January 2011, the Department announced that all aspirant community foundation trusts are to be given the opportunity to acquire the primary care trust (PCT)-owned estate required to support the delivery of services for which they have responsibility. Assets are not at this stage being made available to other potential providers. Consideration is being given as to what arrangements should be in place for the future ownership and management of the remainder of the PCT-owned estate.

Psychotherapy

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on psychotherapy; and if he will make a statement. [62768]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not produced a clinical guideline specifically on the use of psychotherapy, although it has made recommendations relating to the use of psychotherapy in several condition-specific clinical guidelines. NICE is an independent body and its guidance is based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence and is developed through wide consultation with stakeholders.

Radiotherapy

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the variation in the implementation of intensity-modulated radiation therapy among radiotherapy centres. [62949]

Paul Burstow: As with the majority of health services, the commissioning of intensity-modulated radiation treatment (IMRT) is the responsibility of individual trusts, taking into account the needs of local populations.

"The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12", published in December 2010, sets out that to improve outcomes from radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients, commissioners should develop local plans to ensure that access rates to radiotherapy and the use of advanced radiotherapy techniques, such as IMRT, are appropriate for their populations. A copy of the operating framework has already been placed in the Library.

The National Cancer Action Team is working with providers to support the development of IMRT services and, at this time, 20 of the 28 cancer networks have at least one provider offering IMRT. "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, also set out the commitment to investigate the potential development of a range of tariffs to incentivise high quality, cost-effective services, including the newest radiotherapy techniques, such as IMRT.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with *(a)* acute whiplash injury and *(b)* late whiplash syndrome in each of the last 10 years. [62955]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Information Centre for Health and Social Care has advised that its data collection codes do not include a dedicated code for whiplash injuries and therefore it is unable to identify these patients.

Smoking: Public Places

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which premises have been granted exemptions from the ban on indoor smoking in public places on the basis that they are a specialist tobacconists used by persons for sampling cigars under the provisions of the Smoke-free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007, (S.I., 2007, No. 765). [62796]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected centrally and is therefore unavailable. However, the Department understands from the Association of Independent Tobacconists that there are around 45 specialist tobacconist shops in England.

Transplant Surgery

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on elective ventilation as a means of securing organs for transplant; and if he will make a statement. [61920]

Anne Milton: In November 2009 the Department published "Legal issues relevant to non-heartbeating organ donation". A copy has been placed in the Library and it is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_109864.pdf

This document sets out the Department's view of the legal position in relation to interventions taken prior to death to facilitate non-heartbeating donation, now more commonly called donation after circulatory or cardiac death. Any action taken prior to death where the patient lacks capacity must be in their best interests in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Although it is therefore not possible to say categorically whether a specific action or decision will always be in every patient's best interests, anything that places the person at risk of serious harm or distress is unlikely ever to be in the person's best interests.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) whether he has considered the merits of bringing forward amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill to extend the franchise to prisoners; . [62930]

(2) whether he has instructed officials to draft legislation to extend the franchise to prisoners. [62926]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether officials in his Department have discussed prisoner voting rights with officials in the Ministry of Justice since 10 February 2011. [62929]

Mr Harper: Yes, officials are in regular contact on this issue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62721]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not awarded any centrally-let contracts to Capita since May 2010.

To provide information relating to contracts that may have been awarded to Capita by our delegated procurement officers based in overseas locations would incur disproportionate costs.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to publish the objectives for restricting the spread of tuberculosis referred to in its business plan for 2011 to 2015. [62942]

Mr O'Brien: Combating tuberculosis (TB) is an important part of overall efforts to improve the health of the poor. As outlined in the recently published "UK Aid: Changing Lives, Delivering Results", the UK Government are committed to reducing unnecessary suffering from TB by supporting global efforts to halve TB deaths by 2015.

We are committed to reducing the spread of diseases like TB, HIV and malaria, and DFID has therefore produced an HIV position paper, "Towards Zero Infections", which also sets out our approach to tackling TB/HIV. This is available on DFID's website. We will set out our overarching position on health, including our approach to health systems strengthening, which is critical to addressing TB, later in the year.

Trade Unions

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any funding from the public purse provided through his Department's strategic grant agreement with the Trades Union Congress was used to fund the Trade Unions and International Health and Safety workbook. [62589]

Mr Duncan: Between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £416,387 to the Trades Union Congress under the strategy grant agreement. A final report on activities funded by this grant was presented to DFID in June 2006. The report provides a comprehensive description of the activities conducted by the ten unions funded by this grant. There is no reference in the report to funds being used for the Trade Unions and International Health and Safety workbook.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to promote the use of biofuels. [60972]

Norman Baker: The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) is the primary mechanism in the UK for incentivising the use of biofuels in road transport and has been in place since 2008.

We have recently concluded a consultation on amending the RTFO to implement the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The RED requires the UK to source 10% of energy used in transport from renewable sources by 2020 and that biofuels used towards this target meet mandatory sustainability criteria.

In our consultation we proposed no significant change to the current obligation levels set under the RTFO and to keep under review what additional measures will be required to ensure that the UK delivers the requirements of the RED and FQD in the period 2014 to 2020.

We are carefully considering responses to our consultation proposals. Subject to that analysis, we hope to consult on possible trajectories for biofuel supply and greenhouse gas savings in spring 2012, with a further consultation on proposed legislative changes in late 2012. These actions would enable the legislative framework for the period 2014 to 2020 to be set in mid 2013.

Employment Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* officials in his Department, *(b)* the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* outside organisations on the potential effects of changes arising from the review of employment law on matters within his Department's responsibilities. [60715]

Norman Baker: The review of employment-related laws is being co-ordinated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and is a cross-Government initiative.

The Department for Transport is engaged in the process, and relevant Ministers and officials are in contact with BIS on a regular basis in taking forward the review.

The Department is engaging with stakeholders on issues relating to the employment law review in accordance with the standard procedures for consulting formally and informally on policy development.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60189]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has published its plan to increase engagement with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Further information can be found at:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement/actionsimprovingsmebusiness/pdf/targets.pdf

Departmental Redundancy

Tessa Jowell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancies in its non-departmental bodies *(a)* in 2011-12 and *(b)* over the comprehensive spending review period. [61724]

Norman Baker: I refer the right hon. Lady to my answer of 9 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 950W, to the hon. Member for Garston and Halewood (Maria Eagle).

In addition, BRB (Residuary) Ltd is estimated to have redundancy costs of around £1 million. Redundancy costs for Passenger Focus for 2011-12 are now estimated at £1.42 million.

Driving Instruction

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the distance from home drivers are required to travel to attend driver awareness courses. [62937]

Mike Penning: There is a national framework organised by the police for driver awareness courses, which enables motorists to attend courses near where they live. I strongly support a national framework, although it is for each police force to decide whether to participate. I welcome the choice of the vast majority of English and Welsh police forces to take part and would encourage the few forces that are not yet participating to follow this approach.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the strategic framework for road safety, by how much his Department proposes to increase the fixed penalty for uninsured driving. [61280]

Mike Penning: There is no specific proposal to increase the fixed penalty of £200 issued by the police for using an uninsured vehicle. However, as stated in the strategic framework for road safety, we will consider the level of this along with other motoring offences and fixed penalties. At the same time, we are keen to see the courts make full use of the range of penalties for this offence. We do recognise there is a strong case for better correspondence between penalties and the cost of purchasing insurance.

A new offence of keeping a vehicle without insurance has recently been introduced. Under the continuous insurance enforcement scheme, keepers of vehicles which appear to be uninsured, but which have no statutory off-road notification in force, will be fined a fixed penalty of £100 by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, with further enforcement action—wheel-clamping, impounding and ultimately prosecution by the courts. The scheme, including the penalty, will be reviewed as part of the post-implementation review.

Driving Offences: Unpaid Fines

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the strategic framework for road safety, what measures his Department is considering for the recovery of unpaid motoring fines. [61277]

Mike Penning: The recovery of unpaid motoring fines is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made in its work to establish that driving under the influence of drugs constitutes an offence of driving while impaired; and what progress it has made on research into *(a)* impairment of and *(b)* technology for the detection of drugs in drivers. [61278]

Mike Penning: There are complex issues associated with the introduction of an additional offence. Preparatory work is at an early stage following the Government's response to the North review on drink and drug driving in March.

The specification for drug screening kits in police stations has already been published. Field trials for six devices are just being concluded and these will then move to laboratory testing.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of trends in the ratio of actual tonnes to capacity tonnes per kilometre carried for *(a)* articulated lorries over 33 tonnes and *(b)* all heavy goods vehicles under 33 tonnes since 1985. [62382]

Mike Penning: Statistics on heavy goods vehicle lading factors (the ratio of goods moved to the maximum achievable tonne kilometres) are available on the Department for Transport website. Figures are available from 1999-2009 in Table 1.12 of "Road Freight Statistics 2009" and from 1991-2001 in Table 7 of "Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain 2001".

Statistics prior to 1991 are only available in hardcopy format. A copy of Table 7 in Transport of Goods by Road in Great Britain 1995 is as follows.

The tables show statistics for rigid and articulated heavy goods vehicles and for different weight groups. However, the specific split for all heavy goods vehicles less than 33 tonnes is not available for this time period.

An assessment was made in research commissioned by the Department entitled "Longer and/or Longer and Heavier Goods Vehicles (LHVs)—a Study of the Effects if Permitted in the UK".

Table 7: Proportion of empty running and lading factors[1]: by vehicle type: 1985 to 1995

Vehicle type and size (gvw tonnes)	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Percentage of empty running											
Rigid vehicles											
Over 3.5 to 7.5	28.7	28.0	29.3	28.6	27.5	28.5	27.3	26.6	27.8	26.2	28.0
Over 7.5 to 17	29.6	28.3	28.6	28.5	27.7	27.2	27.1	25.9	26.6	26.3	27.3
Over 17 to 23	43.1	42.6	41.8	41.1	39.7	40.1	39.6	39.0	38.5	38.1	38.2
Over 25	44.8	44.7	45.2	44.8	43.7	44.6	43.7	42.4	43.1	42.4	40.7
All rigids	32.2	31.1	31.9	31.5	30.6	30.8	30.1	29.1	30.0	29.1	30.2
Articulated vehicles											
Over 3.5 to 33 tonnes	29.3	29.1	29.7	29.0	29.5	28.1	27.1	25.2	26.1	26.7	27.6
Over 33	28.1	28.5	28.7	28.4	28.9	28.4	27.8	27.7	28.6	28.2	28.6
All artics	28.9	28.9	29.3	28.7	29.2	28.3	27.6	27.0	27.9	27.8	28.3
All vehicles	31.0	30.3	30.8	30.4	30.0	29.8	29.1	28.2	29.1	28.5	29.4

Table 7: Proportion of empty running and lading factors[1]: by vehicle type: 1985 to 1995

Vehicle type and size (gvw tonnes)	*1985*	*1986*	*1987*	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*
Lading factor											
Rigid vehicles											
Over 3.5 to 7.5	0.41	0.38	0.40	0.45	0.42	0.43	0.43	0.40	0.43	0.42	0.44
Over 7.5 to 17	0.49	0.46	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
Over 17 to 25	0.76	0.73	0.71	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.68	0.66	0.65	0.65	0.63
Over 25	0.91	0.89	0.90	0.88	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.84	0.82	0.80	0.78
All rigids	0.60	0.57	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.56
Articulated vehicles											
Over 3.5 to 33 tonnes	0.65	0.61	0.59	0.58	0.56	0.54	0.51	0.48	0.49	0.50	0.49
Over 33	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.69	0.70	0.69	0.70
All artics	0.69	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.66	0.65	0.64	0.65	0.65	0.66
All vehicles	0.66	0.63	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.63	0.62	0.61	0.62	0.62	0.63

1 The ratio of the actual goods moved to the maximum tonne-kms achievable if the vehicles, whenever loaded, were loaded to their maximum carrying capacity.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the changes in the average payload of heavy goods vehicles attributable to the introduction of maximum payloads for heavy goods vehicles in *(a)* 1999 and *(b)* 2001; [62383]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average payload of heavy goods vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available; and what assessment he has made of trends in average payloads for heavy goods vehicles since 1985. [62384]

Mike Penning: Average domestic payloads for British-registered heavy goods vehicles from 1982 to 2009 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the following table. These figures are derived from the Department for Transport Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport.

An assessment was made in research commissioned by the Department entitled "Longer and/or Longer and Heavier Goods Vehicles (LHVs)—a Study of the Effects if Permitted in the UK".

Domestic road freight average payload: 1982 to 2009

	Average payload (tonnes)
1982	8.4
1983	8.5
1984	8.5
1985	8.5
1986	8.4
1987	8.8
1988	8.9
1989	8.8
1990	8.8
1991	8.6
1992	8.5
1993	8.8
1994	8.7
1995	9.2
1996	9.1
1997	9.0
1998	9.0
1999	8.9
2000	8.9
2001	9.1
2002	9.2
2003	9.3
2004	9.3
2005	9.5
2006	9.5
2007	9.9
2008	10.1
2009	9.7

Note:
Average annual payload is calculated by total annual tonne-kilometres divided by total annual loaded kilometres.
Source:
Continuing Survey of Road Goods Transport, DfT.

Large Goods Vehicles: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration his Department has given to the safety equipment to be *(a)* required and *(b)* recommended for use on any heavy goods vehicle over 16.5 metres long authorised for use on UK roads. [61232]

Mike Penning: Research commissioned by the Department for Transport considered the use of safety equipment, such as steering technology, on articulated lorries combined with semi-trailers over 16.5 metres long. Various options for such equipment were included in the Department's consultation on whether or not to allow an increase in the length of articulated lorries. The Government are now analysing the consultation response and will make an announcement later in the year.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will participate in the EU collaborative research project on truck safety. [61274]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has no current plans to participate in an EU collaborative project on truck safety. Careful consideration will be given to any such proposals that would improve road safety in the UK.

Motorcycles: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken at EU level to encourage the development and deployment of safety technologies for motorcycles. [61275]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport part-funded the recently completed EU project, Powered Two Wheeler Integrated Safety (PISa). The aim of this project was to demonstrate the potential of a number of advanced safety systems, such as 'active' braking.

The Department is also satisfied that a proposal from the European Commission to require advanced braking systems on new motorcycles has the potential to prevent a significant number of accidents. We will continue to work with the Commission and other member states to develop the details of the proposal and seek a cost-effective approach to the introduction of these new braking measures.

Ports: Liverpool

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what state aid issues his Department considered in the award of a grant for the construction of the city of Liverpool cruise terminal. [62978]

Mike Penning: The main UK grant award for construction of the city of Liverpool cruise terminal was made under the previous Administration by the North West Development Agency, with parallel funding from the European regional development fund. The grant condition precluding the use of the terminal for turnaround cruise was agreed at the request of the Department for Transport, based on considerations of UK domestic competition.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department is using to determine the application to use the city of Liverpool cruise terminal for turnaround calls. [62979]

Mike Penning: I am considering this request by Liverpool city council based on balancing the interests of potential economic regeneration and those of fair competition in the market for cruise calls.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the effect of variations in the price of renewable transport fuel obligation certificates on the sustainability of the diesel industry. [61596]

Norman Baker: As part of the Government's measures to address climate change, the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) ensures a growing proportion of UK road transport fuels are from sustainable renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase the efficiency of compliance. The value of individual renewable transport fuel certificates (RTFCs) is determined by the market and depends upon the relative cost of supplying biofuel and fossil fuels. RTFCs for the obligation period 2010-11 have sold at 15p to 24p at auction. We continue to monitor the market value of RTFCs and consider that to date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK.

Rescue Services: Manpower

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average length of service is of HM Coastguard staff employed at each Maritime and Coastguard Agency location in Scotland. [61584]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The information requested is in the following table.

Average number of years in service

MRCC	*Median*
Aberdeen MRCC	10.80
Clyde MRCC	13.43
Forth MRCC	15.98
Shetland MRCC	10.67
Stornoway MRCC	12.23

Roads: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department will provide to Think! Education in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each financial year of the comprehensive spending review period. [61272]

Mike Penning: Think! road safety communications expenditure in 2010-11 was £2.3 million and the budget for each year of the comprehensive spending review period is £3.5 million.

Speed Limits

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the strategic framework for road safety, when he plans to revise and reissue guidance on speed limits in urban areas. [61276]

Mike Penning: Revised guidance is planned to be published in six to 12 months' time. The revision and reissue of the guidance about speed limits may involve consultation and will be co-ordinated with the development of an economic tool to assist local authorities to make robustly defensible decisions about speed limits.

Trade Unions

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Esher and Walton of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W, on trade unions, what the budget was for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(c)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(d)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency, *(e)* the Highways Agency, *(f)* the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, *(g)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(h)* the Vehicles Certification Agency in 2010-11; and what proportion of the budget in each case was used to fund trade union facility time. [62663]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* For the agencies, the budget or latest forecast expenditures for 2010-11 can be found in the Business Plan publications on their respective websites. For the central Department, they can be found in HM Treasury's website under Main Estimates.

The cost of funding trade union facility time was the subject of the answer to the hon. Member for Esher and Walton (Mr Raab) of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Human Rights

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* human rights and *(b)* the rights of women are protected as part of any political settlement in Afghanistan. [60028]

Mr Hague: It is the UK Government's view that to be sustainable and durable, any political settlement in Afghanistan must be inclusive and respect the rights of all Afghan citizens, including women.

We work closely with our international partners to support the Afghan Government as they work to implement the commitments they made on human rights at the London and Kabul conferences. These include the development of a national priority programme for human rights and civic responsibilities. The UK provides financial support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and supports a human rights support unit based within the Ministry of Justice.

UK representatives in Kabul continue to press the Afghan Government to implement their national and international human rights commitments, including the Elimination of Violence Against Women law and the UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what recent occasions he has discussed with his US counterpart the transfer of security responsibility to forces in Afghanistan. [56322]

Mr Hague: I am in regular contact with Secretary Clinton about the situation in Afghanistan. I met her most recently during her visit to the UK on 23 May 2011.

Internet

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has given to UK nationals working overseas as online journalists in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [56393]

Mr Hague: We offer support to British nationals abroad when they get into difficulty. We do not hold specific statistics on support given to UK nationals working overseas as online journalists.

Mediterranean Region: Human Trafficking

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the risk to the health and well-being of irregular migrants presented by unlawful people trafficking over routes across the Mediterranean sea; and if he will make a statement. [62680]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to respond to this parliamentary question on behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Since the onset of violence in Libya, a number of migrant workers have sought to flee areas worst affected by conflict. The UK Government are working closely with partners such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who are supporting migrants to be repatriated to their home countries safely. Individuals have their health status assessed by medical teams before their repatriation takes place.

The majority of people fleeing Libya have been repatriated to their countries of origin, predominantly by the IOM, with UK support. More than 1.1 million people fleeing from Libya had crossed the border into Tunisia and Egypt. As a result of British and other international efforts, fewer than 7,500 people currently remain on both borders.

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on Sri Lanka: war crimes, what monitoring his Department is undertaking to assess progress by the Government of Sri Lanka on addressing allegations of war crimes. [63081]

Mr Hague: Our high commission in Colombo is monitoring developments to assess any progress made, including the Sri Lankan Government's "Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission". We work closely with the US and other EU missions in doing so, and draw on reports from civil society, the UN and others.

Since the end of the conflict, the UK has called for an independent, thorough and credible investigation of allegations of war crimes committed during the hostilities. If meaningful reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities is to take place, Sri Lanka needs to investigate these allegations and hold accountable those responsible for war crimes.

Sudan: Overseas Investment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to encourage British investment in Sudan and South Sudan. [61921]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The British embassy in Khartoum has a small UK Trade and Investment section which responds to inquiries from British companies interested in the Sudanese market. The British Government strongly support the Norway and Turkey initiative to co-host an international investment and engagement conference for Sudan later this year. We also support US plans for a similar conference to promote trade with the South. We are positively engaged with the Sudanese, and as the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made clear to Sudanese Foreign Minister Karti on 6 June, it is important to see both Sudan and South Sudan emerge at the end of the comprehensive peace agreement as two economically viable states, living in peace and stability. We remain committed to helping both sides make this happen.

Syria: UN Resolutions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has discussed a potential UN Security Council resolution on Syria with his *(a)* Russian, *(b)* Chinese and *(c)* US counterparts. [63018]

Mr Hague: I regularly raise our proposed Security Council resolution on Syria with my counterparts from other members of the United Nations Security Council. The Prime Minister, our ambassadors around the world, the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and other officials overseas do likewise.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Corruption

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the final cost of Helen Garlick's investigation into corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands. [62414]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The final cost of the investigation will not be known until it has concluded.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Helen Garlick's investigation into corruption in the Turks and Caicos Islands to conclude. [62415]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The special investigation and prosecution team (SIPT), led by Helen Garlick, is carrying out an independent investigation. The SIPT continues to make progress, but its activities have to be kept confidential to protect the integrity of the investigation.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equalities and Human Rights Commission: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the spending controls announced by the Cabinet Office on 2 March 2011 apply to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. [62205]

Lynne Featherstone: The spending controls announced by the Cabinet Office on 2 March 2011 apply to the Equality and Human Rights Commission. They will be operated consistently with the commission's independence and status as a national human rights institution in the UN system.

Equalities and Human Rights Commission: Public Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Equality and Human Rights Commission spent from the public purse on legal fees in respect of support for the claimants in the case of Hall and Preddy *v.* Bull and Bull; and if she will make a statement. [62618]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The Equality and Human Rights Commission (The commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

The cost to the commission of representing the claimants in the case of Hall and Preddy *v.* Bull and Bull in the county court was £14,520.96.

The commission's costs to date of the appeal to the Court of Appeal totals £3,852.

Government Equalities Office: Pay

Mr Raab: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the salary is of the highest earning official of *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [59773]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 15 June 2011]:* At 31 March 2011 the salary of the highest earning permanent official at the Government Equalities Office was within the following pay range: £130,000 to £135,000.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (The commission) is an arm's length body; the following is based on information it has provided.

At 31 March 2011 the salary of the highest earning permanent official at the commission was within the following pay range: £130,000 to £135,000.

The commission also engages 34 interims through employment agencies. They do not receive a salary but are instead paid a daily rate.

The highest amount paid to an interim member of the commission's staff for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 was £200,813.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the implications for the Government's policy on equalities of the provision of care for *(a)* adult and *(b)* child victims of human trafficking. [61648]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are committed to protecting all victims of human trafficking.

In respect of adults, victims of human trafficking are entitled to support as set out in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which includes: accommodation, living expenses, access to counselling and medical treatment, interpretive services and resettlement support. The Government have introduced a new model for funding specialist support for adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales. Victims will receive support in line with the standards of the Council of Europe Convention and tailored to their individual needs. These support services will be equally available to all identified adult victims, regardless of their particular equality and diversity traits, or the type of exploitation they have suffered.

An equality impact assessment of this change in commissioning model identified primarily positive equality impacts.

In relation to children, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Trafficked children who become looked after have the same entitlement to care services as all other children. Where a child becomes looked after, local authorities must allocate the child a social worker who will assess their needs and draw up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of the child's needs. This must take into account the child's wishes and feelings.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aerospace Industry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of UK competitiveness in the aerospace industry; and if he will make a statement. [57496]

Mr Prisk: The UK is one of only a few nations with capability across the entire aircraft product range, with strong positions in the most technologically advanced, high value-added segments. These include the design, manufacture and maintenance repair and overhaul of aero-engines, advanced wings and airframe structures, helicopters, avionics, landing gear, electrical and fuel systems, actuations and interiors. The supply chain comprises some 2,500 companies spread widely throughout the UK.

The UK has the largest aerospace industry in Europe and the second largest in the world (after USA), with a 17% global market share. It has a turnover of around £22 billion, of which about 70% is exported, which provides access to growing world markets such as China. The sector directly employs around 100,000 highly skilled people and supports a further 122,000 jobs indirectly. Some 36% of employees are educated to degree or equivalent level.

The Government and the UK aerospace industry are working together, primarily through the Aerospace Business Leaders (chaired by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Aerospace Growth Partnership (chaired jointly by the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Prisk) and Marcus Bryson, CEO of GKN Aerospace), to see how best the UK aerospace sector can strengthen its competitive position in the global market and maximise the opportunities for growth.

Business: Expenditure

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much small businesses spent on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* innovation in (i) each year since 2005 and (ii) 2011 to date. [62025]

Mr Willetts: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects information on net capital investment through its annual business survey.

Annual business survey (ABS), small firms, net capital expenditure

	2005	2006	2007	2008	£ million 2009
Less than 250 registered employees	32,266	33,155	36,440	37,941	32,600

Note:
The ABS covers about two-thirds of the UK economy, including production, construction, distribution and service industries.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills collects information on innovation through the UK innovation survey. The survey is run every two years and covers innovation behaviour over a three-year period. Businesses are requested to estimate their innovation expenditure data for the final year in the period.

UK innovation survey, small firms (10 to 49 employees), shares of innovation expenditure by activity

	Percentage of all small business expenditure	
Innovation activity	*2006*	*2008*
Internal R&D	19	22
External R&D	4	2
Acquisition of machinery	48	44
Acquisition of knowledge	3	9
Training	9	14
Design	4	4
Market introductions	14	5

Notes:
1. Due to the quality of expenditure data, only proportions of total expenditure by size and activity are published.
2. (b) data for 2011 are not yet available. The most recent data are provided in response to (a) above.

Business: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on costs of compliance for (i) micro, (ii) small and (iii) medium-sized businesses. [62218]

Mr Prisk: The Better Regulation Executive published a report in November 2010, focusing on the experience of the UK's smallest businesses and summarised the experiences they reported in dealing with the overall regulatory burden. 'Lightening the Load—The Regulatory Impact on UK's Smallest Businesses' can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/l/10-1251-lightening-the-load-regulatory-impact-smallest-businesses.pdf

No other Government-wide research has been commissioned or evaluated on the costs of compliance for small and medium-sized businesses. However, Government Departments routinely consider the impact of small and medium-sized enterprises complying with regulations when drawing up impact assessments for proposed regulations and carrying out reviews of existing regulations.

Export Credits Guarantee Department

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many projects the Export Credits Guarantee Department has declined to support on the grounds of inadequate social, environmental and human rights screening processes in each of the last five years. [61914]

Mr Davey: In the past five years the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has not supported any projects that did not meet international environmental, social and human rights (ESHR) standards at the time ECGD gave its support, in accordance with its obligations under the OECD Recommendation on Common Approaches on Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits, which regulates the basis upon which export credit agencies address ESHR impacts of the projects they are asked to support.

ECGD has not refused to support any applications for projects which did not meet international standards; when deficiencies are identified it engages with project sponsors until it is satisfied that the project meets international standards or the application is withdrawn.

Patents: International Co-operation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 963W, on patents: international cooperation, what the steps are which he has taken to encourage the European Patent Office to pursue work-sharing with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office. [62711]

Mr Davey: The Government encourage the European Patent Office's (EPO) work-sharing activities through our seat on the EPO's administrative council. The UK has encouraged the EPO to get involved in foundation project work-sharing schemes with the other four biggest intellectual property offices (the United States, Japan, China and South Korea). In addition to these, the UK has encouraged the EPO's involvement in a number of schemes with USPTO and JPO exclusively:

JP First, launched in April 2008, in which the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) examines early applications which have also been filed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the EPO so that the other offices can make use of the work of the JPO when they examine cases.

The Triway pilot program, in which the USPTO shares its search results, and search history, with the EPO and the JPO at an early stage, so that they may use them in their own searches.

Another important international work-sharing scheme is the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), which allows applicants at a first office to benefit from accelerated processing of their application at a second office in exchange for behaviour which makes processing easier for the second office. The Intellectual Property Office of the UK signed its first PPH agreement with Japan in July 2007 and encouraged the European Patent Office to do likewise. The EPO signed a trilateral PPH agreement with Japan and the US, which came into effect in January 2010.

While these initiatives are a positive step forward, there remains much work to be done and we continue to encourage the EPO to engage in work-sharing.

Science: Industry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the competitiveness of the UK life sciences industry. [57587]

Mr Willetts: The Government announced their healthcare and life sciences growth plan in March 2011. The plan builds on the life sciences blueprint and contains a package of measures to strengthen the UK as a location for life sciences.

In the area of clinical trials and health research, measures include:

setting up a new Health Research Authority to streamline regulation;

making funding for providers of NHS services contingent on meeting a 70-day benchmark to recruit first patients for trials;

building consensus on using e-health record data to create unique opportunities for research in the UK;

opening up information on clinical research to promote collaboration and innovation, and

publishing prescribing data at a practice level, subject to an evaluation and impact assessment by the NHS Information Centre.

To encourage collaboration and innovation in the sector the Government will:

establish translational research partnerships from its £775 million investment in NHR biomedical research centres and units;

take actions to remove any barriers that limit the further development of geographical clusters for entrepreneurship and business growth;

launch a competition to form a cell therapy technology and innovation centre (TIC);

improve market signalling by bringing companies and educators together to ensure educators provide the skilled individuals the sector needs to grow;

ensure the intellectual property (IP) system supports life sciences businesses, and

encourage innovation in NHS procurement, including £10 million investment by the Department of Health in the small business research initiative on health care challenges.

Sir David Nicholson, chief executive of the NHS, will review how the adoption and diffusion of innovations can be accelerated across the NHS. Sir David will report his findings to the Government by November 2011.

In social care the Government will:

improve the take-up of assisted living technology, including an £18 million R&D investment programme through the Technology Strategy Board, and

strip out regulations that were never meant for the social care market and prevent market entry for small providers and flexible services.

We are investing in our world-leading research base by:

protecting the science budget;

supporting business-led technology innovation through the Technology Strategy Board's strategic programmes, i.e. collaborative R&D programmes in cell therapies and technologies for health, in regenerative medicine, in assisted living, in the detection and identification of infectious agents, and in stratified medicines.

We are establishing an attractive tax regime to encourage innovative business to invest in the UK through:

the Patent Box;

increasing the rate of SME R&D tax relief to 200 per cent in 2011 and 225 per cent in 2012, subject to state aid approval, as well as consulting on proposals to simplify the scheme; and to ensure relief is available when R&D project work is contracted out.

UK Trade & Investment has identified the life sciences as a priority sector in its recent strategy, Britain Open for Business. UKTI has resources dedicated to the sector supporting both UK companies' trade activity and encouraging high-value inward investment into the UK.

TheCityUk: Finance

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department *(a)* has provided and *(b)* plans to provide funding to the organisation thecityuk. [61948]

Mr Davey: Since 2003, the core Department and its predecessors have made only two payments to thecityuk. The first was made in July 2005 for £159 and the second was made in April 2010 for £633. There are no open commitments to provide any further funding.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 4 July 2011

SCOTLAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on placing advertisements in newspapers in Scotland in each year since 2005. [63390]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has spent the following on placing advertisements in newspapers in Scotland in each year since 2005:

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	0
2006-07	17,510
2007-08	0
2008-09	0
2009-10	0
2010-11	7,357

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63557]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office endeavours to pay all suppliers within five days and does not differentiate between small, medium-sized or large businesses. Between 1 June 2010 and 31 May 2011 the Scotland Office paid 99.1% of invoices within five days.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [63000]

David Mundell: Information relating to the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in an annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses. Details of the costs for 2010-11 are currently being compiled and are due for release in July 2011. Information prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Links to the details for the available years are shown as follows:

2005-06

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

As of January 2011, the Scotland Office no longer has a contract with the Government Car Service.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data. Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' Ministerial Car Service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is detailed in the following table:

	Number of journeys
2010	
September	3
October	6
November	6
December	14
2011	
January	0
February	1
March	2

Drugs

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on *(a)* cocaine and *(b)* other drug usage in Scotland. [62921]

Michael Moore: Responsibility for drugs health, education and enforcement has been devolved to the Scottish Government.

Mortgages

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of banks operating in Scotland to discuss *(a)* domestic mortgage lending and *(b)* lending to small and medium-sized enterprises. [62919]

Michael Moore: I meet regularly representatives of the Scottish financial sector, including banks operating in Scotland, to discuss issues of importance to the Scottish and wider UK economy. Those issues include mortgage lending and lending to small and medium-sized enterprises, which are vital to creating an environment in which Scottish businesses and families can prosper.

My most recent engagements with representatives of banks operating in Scotland were last week. I have further relevant engagements planned for this month.

Scottish Power

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met representatives of Scottish Power; and what matters were discussed. [62920]

Michael Moore: I meet frequently Scottish Power as well as other utility companies. I last met Scottish Power on 18 May 2011 at which we discussed a range of issues. There has also been recent and ongoing contact with officials regarding news on pricing, electricity market reform and other issues.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: International Co-operation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures were agreed at the G20 agriculture summit on 22 June 2011 on *(a)* investment in research and innovation in agriculture and *(b)* steps to tackle rising global food prices. [62764]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement laid before the House by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about the recent meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency has paid out under each level of the single payment scheme in each year since 2005. [62850]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 29 July 2011]:* The amounts paid out by the Rural Payments Agency in respect of the single payment scheme for England since 2005 are as shown. There are no levels of the scheme.

Single payment scheme year	*£ billion*
2005	1.60
2006	1.55
2007	1.49
2008	1.66
2009	1.90

The payment window for 2010 closes on 30 June. The amount paid out by 17 June was £1.71 billion.

Animal Welfare

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has any plans to bring forward proposals to increase the sentencing powers provided for in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [62803]

Mr Paice: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 was reviewed in 2010 and the findings of the review were presented to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. Officials worked closely with a wide range of groups involved with animal welfare and the need to increase sentencing powers was not identified as a matter that required attention. A copy of the review can be found on:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/act/documents/aw-act-2006-memo-101220.pdf

Cats: Electric Shock Equipment

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of electronic collars on domestic cats; and whether she has plans to commission any further such research; [63033]

(2) what her policy is on prohibiting the use of electronic collars on domestic cats. [63034]

Mr Paice: No specific research has been carried out, or is proposed, on the use of electronic collars for cats.

We are currently reviewing the recently completed research on the use of electronic collars for dogs. No decisions on the use of such devices will be made until we have completed the peer review of the research.

Environment

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has assessed the merits of including the Teme Valley, Worcestershire, in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. [62844]

Richard Benyon: It is ordinarily for Natural England to propose boundary changes to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and it has not assessed the suitability of the Teme Valley, Worcestershire as a possible extension of the Malvern Hills AONB.

Natural England is currently developing a strategy to guide future work on landscape and biodiversity designations. Until this is in place it will not be undertaking further work on new designations or boundary variations beyond its current project affecting the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

Farming: Private Sector

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to enter partnerships with *(a)* the UK Food Chain Alliance and *(b)* other private sector-led groups to deliver its policies on farming. [62924]

Mr Paice: DEFRA is committed to working with farmers and food chain businesses to ensure we deliver our aim of supporting British farming and sustainable food production. Officials have met the UK Food Chain Alliance on its discussion paper "Working together to safeguard and enhance UK farming" and we are following its progress with interest.

Many parts of our food and farming industries are showing leadership in delivering a sustainable future, and the Government are supporting these efforts through,

for example, the delivery of product roadmaps by our livestock sectors, and the important work of the industry to meet emission reduction targets in its Greenhouse Gas Action Plan.

Fisheries: Safety

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has had discussions with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Ministry of Defence on potential implications for safety of the home fishing fleet of reductions in expenditure on the Royal Navy; and if she will make a statement. [63130]

Richard Benyon: I have had discussions with the Minister for the Armed Forces, my hon. Friend the Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey), about the future provision of surface surveillance for fisheries protection purposes, which is currently provided by the Royal Navy.

As I told him, responsibility for surface and aerial surveillance rests not with DEFRA but with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), a non-departmental public body. I understand that the MMO is currently considering the level and composition of surface surveillance services it requires beyond 2013. In order to ensure the MMO delivers its remit at the best possible value for money to the public purse, it expects to begin a procurement exercise later this year.

Whatever decision the MMO takes, I am confident that this will not have any implications for the safety of the home fishing fleet.

Fishing Catches

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on overfishing *(a)* in European waters and *(b)* globally. [62956]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* Whether in EU waters, or elsewhere in the world, overfishing should not occur. Fisheries should be properly managed on a sustainable basis. Regrettably overfishing has occurred in the past and it is something we wish to avoid in the future. As a result, the UK will argue that a reformed common fisheries policy must be better suited to ensure the rational exploitation of fisheries resources and that sustainability is paramount in the future.

Food: Exports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the amount of food exported in each of the last 10 years. [62694]

Mr Paice *[holding answer given 28 June 2011]:* The following table shows the value and volume of total food, feed and drink exported from the UK as recorded in the Official Overseas Trade Statistics for the period 2001-10.

UK exports of food, feed and drink, 2001-10

	£ billion[1]	Million tonnes
2001	11.0	9.7
2002	11.3	10.8
2003	12.2	14.0
2004	11.6	12.0
2005	11.6	12.6
2006	11.9	12.4
2007	12.3	11.9
2008	13.8	12.8
2009	14.7	12.8
2010	15.8	14.5

[1] At 2010 prices.

Note:
2010 data are subject to amendments.

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Food: Imports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the amount of food imported in each of the last 10 years. [62695]

Mr Paice *[holding answer given 28 June 2011]:* The following table shows the value and volume of total food, feed and drink imported into the UK as recorded in the Official Overseas Trade Statistics for the period 2001-10.

UK imports of food, feed and drink, 2001-10

	£ billion[1]	Million tonnes
2001	23.6	30.1
2002	24.2	30.2
2003	25.8	32.2
2004	26.3	32.9
2005	27.3	33.6
2006	28.0	34.1
2007	28.9	34.6
2008	32.9	35.2
2009	34.0	33.6
2010	33.7	34.1

[1] At 2010 prices.

Note:
2010 data are subject to amendments

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Hill Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what land area in square miles *(a)* previously attracted claims under hill farm allowance and *(b)* is now eligible for uplands entry level stewardship or uplands transitional payment. [62124]

Mr Paice: Claims for Hill Farm Allowance 2010 covered 4,250 square miles. Land in the Severely Disadvantaged Areas is eligible for Uplands Entry Level Stewardship or Uplands Transitional Payment and covers 5,020 square miles.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have received payments under the uplands entry level stewardship scheme in each month since its inception. [62665]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The first agreements for Uplands Entry Level Stewardship commenced on 1 July 2010. During the first year of the scheme, payments are being made six monthly in arrears, as set out in the following table:

Payment date (2011)	*Payments made*
January	1,231
February	406
March	385
April	307
May	264
June	227
Total	2,820

From 1 July 2011, the six-monthly payments will move to an autumn/spring payment cycle. The size of the payment and the total amount farmers are due to receive during the life of their agreements will however be unaffected.

Nature Conservation: EU Action

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the effects on the environment of the operation of EU agri-environment funds aiming to maintain populations of declining species. [62120]

Mr Paice: The Government believe that agri-environment schemes play a vital role in maintaining farmland biodiversity. Environmental Stewardship (ES) is the major agri-environment scheme operating in England and is supported by a £1.4 million/year monitoring and evaluation programme and a £2.1 million/year research programme.

Both these programmes make contributions to the growing evidence base relating to biodiversity and include projects that look at the impact of ES across a range of species, assess the success of ES habitat management and examine alternative management techniques with a view to improving the environmental delivery of the scheme.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on the future operation of EU agri-environment funds aiming to maintain populations of declining species. [62121]

Mr Paice: The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy provides a crucial opportunity to refocus spend towards agri-environment schemes, such as Environmental Stewardship, where the role of agri-environment schemes in preserving biodiversity is recognised.

Nutrient Run-off

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on nutrient run-off; and if she will make a statement. [62972]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* Nutrient run-off, whether from agricultural or other sources, represents a serious risk to the health of our waters and the oceans.

The Government are committed to ensuring that farmers have access to the best available advice on good nutrient management. This will make sure that nutrients—from both mineral and organic fertilisers—are managed in a way that optimises their uptake by crops, and minimises their loss to the environment. The trend over the last 14 years shows an overall reduction in the amount of mineral nitrogen and phosphorus applied to land. However, the standard of nutrient management in the UK needs to continue to improve if farming is to become more competitive and profitable, and produce more food in a way that protects the environment and biodiversity and uses natural resources sustainably.

We are acting to implement the requirements under EU and UK laws to achieve good ecological status in our waters, and ensure that the UK's drinking water supply is of a consistently high quality. We are constantly reviewing policy on this area; nutrient runoff was identified as an issue in the Natural Environment White Paper, published on 7 June. We committed to

"develop a strategy to identify and address the most significant diffuse sources of water pollution from non-agricultural sources."

As I announced on 23 March, the Government intend to use a new catchment-based approach to implementing the River Basin Management Plans that are required under the water framework directive. The Environment Agency has established 10 pilot test catchments to validate this approach. Measures to help control nutrient runoff from farms are included in the £110 million funding announced on 13 April. This includes some capital grants for farmers in certain areas under the Catchment Sensitive Farming project.

Water Charges

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on changes in the level of annual water charges in each region in each year since 1989. [62935]

Richard Benyon: Information on the water companies' charges since 1989 is not held by DEFRA; it is available from Ofwat.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Members: Allowances

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the effectiveness of its schemes in restoring public confidence and trust in *(a)* hon. Members first elected in May 2010, *(b)* other hon. Members and *(c)* Parliament. [62444]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Adam Afriyie:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the effectiveness of its schemes in restoring public confidence and trust in (a) hon. Members first elected in May 2010, (b) other hon. Members and (c) Parliament.

We haven't made an assessment broken down in this way. We commissioned a survey of 2,599 adults from YouGov in November 2010, the results of which suggested that 59% agreed that IPSA will make sure MPs are paid only for legitimate expenses, compared to 13% who did not. 16% neither agreed nor disagreed and a further 12% stated that they did not know.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made an assessment of the extent to which hon. Members are funding their parliamentary duties from personal resources. [62445]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Adam Afriyie:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question whether IPSA has made an assessment of the extent to which MPs are funding parliamentary duties from their personal resources.

IPSA has not made such an assessment. We would expect MPs to claim for expenses incurred whilst carrying out their Parliamentary functions whilst they have sufficient budget to do so. Where MPs necessarily incurs liability for expenditure for their parliamentary functions which cannot be met from an existing budget, they may apply for contingency funding.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what proportion of the savings to the public purse achieved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in its first 10 months of operation is attributable to *(a)* resettlement grants, *(b)* parliamentary pensions, *(c)* winding-up allowances and *(d)* other exceptional payments made to retiring hon. Members in the final year of the previous House of Commons scheme. [62446]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Adam Afriyie:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the savings to the public purse achieved by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority in its first 10 months of operation is attributable to (a) resettlement grants, (b) parliamentary pensions, (c) winding-up allowances and (d) other exceptional payments made to retiring hon. Members in the final year of the previous House of Commons scheme.

We estimate that a total of £58,000 may be attributable to the items referred to, but note the following details:

a) IPSA does not pay resettlement grants and the Members' Expenses accounts for 2009-10 confirm that the House did not pay any such grants either.

b) MPs' pay and pensions were not included in the calculation of any savings.

c) The Members' Expenses accounts paid £134,000 for winding up expenses in 2009-10. In 2010-11, IPSA has paid a total of £76,000 for winding up expenses, a difference of £58,000.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the likely savings to the public purse it will achieve in respect of the salaries, staffing and expenses budgets of hon. Members in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11 [62447]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Adam Afriyie:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made of the likely level of savings to the public purse it will achieve in respect of hon. Members salaries, staffing and expenses budgets in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11.

We have made no such estimate. We hold the view that the current MPs' expenses scheme has been running for too short a time for us accurately to predict expenditure in 2011-12. We therefore submitted our Estimate on the basis that Members will claim their full budgets. Our Estimate for 2011-12 was recently approved by the Speaker's Committee for the IPSA, although the Committee put £16.572m of the Estimate in reserve in anticipation that demand will fall short of the full budgetary provision available.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, whether the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has made an assessment of the effects of its schemes on the mental health and well-being of hon. Members. [62448]

Mr Charles Walker: It has not been possible to provide a response to this question by the named day. An answer will be provided as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Charles Walker to Adam Afriyie:

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Scott Woolveridge, dated June 2011:

As acting Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question whether IPSA has made an assessment of the effect of its Schemes on the mental health and wellbeing of MPs.

IPSA has not made such an assessment.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has made of the effects on public confidence in Parliament of the bi-monthly frequency of its publication of claims; and which other publication schedules were considered by IPSA when formulating its schemes. [62623]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated June 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what assessment the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) has made of the effects of the bi-monthly frequency of its publication of claims on public confidence in Parliament; and which other publication schedules were considered by IPSA when formulating its schemes.

We have to date made no assessment of the effects of the bi-monthly frequency of its publication of claims on public confidence in Parliament.

We have considered both more frequent (monthly and rolling) publication and less frequent (quarterly, four and six-monthly) publication. More frequent publication would prove to be considerably more costly, whereas we believed that less frequent publication would not be in the interest of either the public or of MPs.

We have also considered routinely publishing images of invoices and receipts submitted in support of expense claims, but ruled this out on costs grounds and on the grounds that with the majority of claims this documentation provides little additional information.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Council of Europe: Meetings

Oliver Heald: To ask the Attorney-General what meetings he had during his recent visit to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement on that visit. [63338]

The Attorney-General: On Thursday 23 June I addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on the role of Parliaments as guarantors of human rights. I had meetings with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjorn Jagland and Deputy Secretary General, Ms Maud de Boer Buquicchio ahead of UK chairmanship commencing in November 2011. I also met the President of the Council of Europe, Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu.

While visiting the European Court of Human Rights, I met the President of the Court, Mr Jean-Paul Costa, Sir Nicolas Bratza and senior members of the Registry.

Prosecutions

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of those prosecuted by Northamptonshire Crown Prosecution Service had previously been prosecuted for another imprisonable offence, including those who did not serve time in prison as a result, in each of the last three years. [63697]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Case Management System (CMS) does not collect information relating to the number of prosecutions where the defendant had previously been prosecuted for another imprisonable offence (whether or not they served a prison sentence). Such data could not be reasonably obtained locally or nationally other than by a manual exercise at disproportionate cost.

Witnesses: Allowances

Mrs Moon: To ask the Attorney-General if he will review the level of allowances paid by the Crown Prosecution Service to witnesses called by the Crown Prosecution Service to give evidence in court. [62936]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will be undertaking a review of the level of witness expenses and allowances in 2011. Any recommended amendments to the current levels would then be subject to approval by the Attorney-General.

The payment of witness expenses and allowances to prosecution witnesses, where the CPS is the prosecuting authority, is governed by the Crown Prosecution Service (Witnesses' etc. Allowances) Regulations 1988.

Witness attendance at court is a public duty but expenses and allowances are paid to facilitate witnesses' attendance by assisting with costs. The rates that are payable are designed to provide compensation to witnesses attending court but not necessarily full reimbursement of all the costs incurred. The aim is to strike a balance between providing a reasonable level of compensation to witnesses and ensuring that public money is spent appropriately.

It is important that the allowances are set at a level that does not discourage the public from coming forward to give evidence and the rates are, therefore, subject to regular review. Nevertheless, limits on the amounts payable are necessary if the Government are to maintain control over public spending in order to direct resources to the areas of greatest need.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Schools: Visits

Gareth Johnson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many schools in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent were involved in visits to the Palace of Westminster arranged through the Parliamentary Education Service in each year since 2009. [63284]

John Thurso: The number of schools from *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent that have visited the Palace of Westminster through Parliament's Education Service in each year since 2009 is as follows:

	Number	
	Kent	*Dartford*
2009	32	1
2010	32	0
2011 (to date)	16	1
2011 (future bookings)	14	0

The total number of students visiting the Palace of Westminster on these visits, including future bookings for 2011, is 4,389; of these, 65 are from the Dartford constituency.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cycling: Roads

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had recent discussions with British Cycling on the regulations governing road racing. [62984]

Hugh Robertson: I have regular discussions with British Cycling on a range of issues including the regulations governing road racing. The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed new road racing guidance to ensure parity across the country, including a nominated lead, which has been welcomed by British Cycling.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62478]

John Penrose: The Department's invoice payment performance measured against the normal contractual commitment to pay all valid invoices within 30 days since May 2010 is set out in the following table:

Month	*Invoices paid within target*	*Invoices paid after target*	*Value of late payments (£)*
May 2010	414	4	35,701
June 2010	450	4	4,636
July 2010	433	—	—
August 2010	364	2	11,790
September 2010	317	1	129
October 2010	324	—	—
November 2010	382	—	—
December 2010	365	4	10,530
January 2011	297	—	—
February 2011	324	—	—
March 2011	436	4	40,777
April 2011	334	2	5,150
May 2011	360	4	22,177

The Department also monitors payment performance against the Government's target of paying 80% of valid invoices within five working days.

The percentage of invoices paid on time against this target was 74.4% during the period.

Football: Lasers

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with football authorities measures to eliminate the disruptive use of laser pens during football matches; and if he will make a statement. [62587]

Hugh Robertson: I would be happy to raise this at the next appropriate opportunity. I am advised that the football authorities currently work with clubs on a case by case basis where incidents occur, and would encourage clubs and stewards to remain vigilant in their efforts to address this issue.

Historic Buildings

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to protect historic buildings. [63299]

John Penrose: English Heritage has recently launched the National Heritage Protection Plan, which sets out why, what and how England's vulnerable historic environment is to be safeguarded in the next four years. Developed in consultation with a wide range of partners, it shows where the threats are the greatest and will help English Heritage to prioritise its work. It will also help other heritage professionals and volunteers to contribute to the business of managing England's heritage. This Department and English Heritage are also considering various measures to tackle the problem of buildings which have been on the Heritage At Risk Register for an extended period of time.

Horse Racing

Mr Sutcliffe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, columns 327-8, on race course pitch tenures, what assessment he has made of the progress of negotiations at race courses where *(a)* no agreements are in place and *(b)* agreements have been reached in principle; [62303]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that the dispute between race course owners and race course bookmakers is resolved quickly. [62304]

John Penrose *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* I share the hon. Member's wish for this matter to be resolved quickly. I am watching closely the progress of ongoing discussions between the various parties, but especially in those cases where no deal has yet, been agreed in principle. Although it is better for both sides to come to agreement between themselves, rather than have political interference, all options remain open to me. However, time is moving on and I am expecting significant progress in the next three months to get the remaining deals agreed.

Libraries: Reviews

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the *(a)* terms of reference are and *(b)* timetable is for his Department's review of major public lending collections. [62590]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A review of the Government, Arts Council England and British Council Art Collections is currently being undertaken and will explore the potential for efficiencies, cost-savings and enhanced public benefit. It is expected to report later this summer.

Ofcom

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) whether he has made a recent assessment of the remit of Ofcom; [62222]

(2) if he will assess the merits of issuing a direction to Ofcom to empower it to consider and promote economic growth in its decision-making, including on spectrum allocation and orbital filings. [62223]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has recently announced a communication review leading to a new communications Act. The review focuses on three main areas: growth, innovation and deregulation; a communications infrastructure that provides the foundations for growth and creating the right environment for the content industry to thrive. Ofcom's duties and responsibilities as the regulator for communications will be considered as part of this process.

Olympic Games 2012: Lasers

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to measures to prevent the potential disruptive use of laser pens during the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [62586]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for spectator arrangements within the London 2012 venues. LOCOG has already included laser pens on the list of restricted items included in the terms and conditions for ticketing, alongside other items that could disturb a sporting session. These terms and conditions are available online at the following link:

http://www.tickets.london2012.com/purchaseterms.html

Laser pens fall within the definition of "lasers" in section 19.23.

Playing Fields

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's Business Plan 2011-15, when he plans to introduce a programme of improvement and protection for playing fields as part of the community sports legacy. [63100]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* As part of Sport England's £135 million mass participation initiative 'Places, People, Play', the Minister for Sport and the Olympics and Sport England recently launched Protecting Playing Fields, the £10 million fund to protect and improve sports fields across the country. The programme will fund projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long-term protection of the site for sport.

Public Holidays

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 480W, on public holidays, if he will hold a full consultation on bank holidays in 2011. [63693]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: We are reviewing the evidence submitted during the pre-consultation and will make an announcement shortly.

Sport England: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what financial assistance Sport England has provided to community sports clubs and projects in Dartford constituency since May 2010. [63300]

Hugh Robertson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 17 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 529W.

Sports

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the relationship between levels of participation in sports at youth level and sporting performance at elite level; and if he will make a statement. [62983]

Hugh Robertson: To date the Government have not undertaken any assessment. However, through Sport England and UK Sport we are developing a world-class sporting system from the community to the elite level that strives to increase numbers participating in sport, identifies early on talented individuals and for those with talent provides a clear pathway to the very top that offers appropriate support to enable them to realise their full potential.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of HM Revenue and Customs' VAT treatment of league block bookings since February 2011 on participation in sport. [63400]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England's Active People Survey measures adult participation in sport. The survey does not include any questions relating to the effects of HM Revenue and Customs' VAT treatment of league block bookings. The latest full-year data show that 4.96% of the adult population participated in football once a week for 30 minutes at moderate intensity. The next full-year data will be published in December 2011.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on the VAT treatment of league block bookings since February 2011. [63401]

Hugh Robertson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff West (Kevin Brennan), on 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 553-54W.

Sports: Obesity

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of recent trends in participation in sport by children classed as obese. [62982]

Hugh Robertson: The Taking Part survey measures participation in sport by children, but does not measure participation by children classed as obese. Trend data from the survey indicate that participation among five to 15-year-olds with a long-term illness, disability or infirmity is on the increase.

World War I: Anniversaries

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what budget has been set for events to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War; and if he will make a statement. [62578]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has not allocated any budget for this purpose.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War; and if he will make a statement. [62581]

Mr Vaizey: I have discussed this important topic with my ministerial colleagues in the Ministry of Defence. We are planning further discussions with Ministers in other Departments with an interest, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which Department is leading on arrangements to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War; and if he will make a statement. [62582]

Mr Vaizey: Planning for a wide range of events is already under way. The Imperial War Museum in particular is leading the work in this area. The role of Government and which Department will co-ordinate this, is still under discussion.

TRANSPORT

A233: Road Traffic

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate hourly traffic flows in both directions on the A233 in Orpington constituency *(a)* at peak hours and *(b)* at other times; and if he will make a statement. [63304]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport (DFT) produces traffic estimates using data from manual counts, where trained enumerators count traffic on a specific section of the road network over a 12 hour period.

Major roads, such as the A223, are represented by a series of links, which are unique sections of road. It is not possible to count every link every year; therefore the sections of road are surveyed on either an annual basis or on a cycle of every two, four or eight years.

A table providing the latest available 12 hourly data for each section of the A223 in the Orpington constituency has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

The Department for Transport produces an estimate of the average number of vehicles passing a point in the road network on an average day of the given year (AADF).

A table providing the estimated annual average daily flows (AADFs) between 2000 and 2010 for each section of the A223 in the Orpington constituency has been deposited in the Libraries of the House. These data are not available by hourly breakdown.

A map showing the location of the three count points on the A223 in the Orpington constituency has also been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of passengers who have used Southeastern rail services running alongside the High Speed One rail link in each year since the link opened; and what information his Department holds on changes in the level of fares on pre-existing routes during that period. [62191]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The information is as follows:

1. The Department for Transport holds information on the average number of passengers arriving at or departing from the 'critical point' (the point where crowding is highest) on each Southeastern service on a typical weekday during the spring and autumn only. This information is commercially confidential.

The Department does not hold information on the total number of passengers using Southeastern rail services running alongside the High Speed One rail link over a whole year.

2. Southeastern services on High Speed One commenced on 13 December 2009.

The average permitted increase in Southeastern regulated fares was 1.6% in 2010 and 7.8% in 2011. The Department does not hold information on changes in unregulated fares as these are a commercial matter for train operating companies who are free to set them on a commercial basis.

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of passengers on the High Speed One rail route in each

year since it opened; and how much revenue has been generated from ticket purchases for the route. [62197]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The information is as follows:

1. The Department for Transport has not made an estimate of the number of passengers on the High Speed One rail route in each year since it opened.

2. The Office of Rail Regulation publishes revenue figures for the GB rail industry including breakdowns by sectors in National Rail Trends (NRT). This is available on the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Revenue figures for individual train operating companies are commercially confidential.

Crewe-Chester Railway Line: Electrification

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce his decision on electrification of the Crewe to Chester line. [61263]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), has made no decision on electrification of the Crewe to Chester line. The recent InterCity West Coast franchise draft invitation to tender stated that should bidders propose further electrification schemes, they would be expected to provide evidence within their bids of how they would finance, plan and deliver such a scheme within the franchise term.

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the feasibility of electrification of the rail line between Crewe and Chester. [61927]

Mrs Villiers: Network Rail assessed the electrification of the rail line between Crewe and Chester as part of its Electrification Network Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS), published in October 2009. Network Rail is currently reviewing this and other schemes as part of its input to the Initial Industry Plan to be published in the autumn.

The recent InterCity West Coast franchise draft Invitation to Tender stated that should bidders propose further electrification schemes, they would be expected to provide evidence within their bids of how they would finance, plan and deliver such a scheme within the franchise term.

Crossrail: Rolling Stock

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 574W, on Crossrail: rolling stock, whether the Thameslink Project will require full train length equivalent diagrams to consist of 12 carriages each. [62461]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* On completion the Thameslink train service will be operated by a fleet consisting of a combination of 12 and eight carriage trains.

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the address is of each office property occupied by his Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61180]

Norman Baker: I am afraid that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61715]

Norman Baker: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer to his identical question of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 591W.

Driving Instruction

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the fee levels are for driver awareness courses in the six highest charging authorities; and what assessment he has made of the compliance of such fees with the requirement to charge on a non-profit basis. [63698]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not hold information concerning fee levels for driver awareness courses in the six highest charging authorities or the level of fees in relation to costs. Driver awareness courses are organised by local police forces and it would be for them to respond on this. The Department strongly supports a national framework and has been keen to encourage all police forces to participate in this, which allows motorists to take courses in their local area and should also provide greater consistency of course fees.

Driving: Licensing

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether provisions are in place to prevent the purchasing of motor insurance by an individual who does not have a valid immigration status in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [60836]

Mike Penning: There is no statutory requirement on motor insurers to check the immigration status of someone seeking to insure a vehicle. Insurers underwrite the risk of those they insure and there is a statutory requirement on an insurer to meet the liability where the insured has been found at fault in an accident.

EC Regulation 137/2007/EC

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the implementation of EC Regulation 137/2007/EC on rail passengers' rights and obligations. [63349]

Norman Baker: Following consultation with the rail industry and passenger groups, the Government decided to maintain the decision taken in 2009 by the previous Administration to exempt domestic services from the non-core elements of the Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations Regulation for a period of five years up to December 2014. We believe that the marginal benefits of fully extending the pan-European regime to domestic passengers would be outweighed by the costs to Government and industry. It would also conflict with our intention to reduce regulatory burdens and with our franchise reform agenda. The UK already has a well-established regime for protecting the rights of domestic rail passengers, including by providing assistance to persons with reduced mobility and disabilities, protecting passengers in case of delay and ensuring a convenient handling of their claims in case of an accident.

Greater Anglia Railways

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Greater Anglia rail franchise will run for two years and seven periods from its commencement instead of the previously planned one year and seven periods with a one year optional extension. [62615]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* We have announced that the Greater Anglia franchise will start in February 2012 and run until July 2013, with an option to extend the term by up to one year. The decision to extend is at the sole discretion of the Secretary of State. Such an extension would be competitively priced as part of the competition currently being run to operate this franchise.

Great Western Railway Line: Railway Signals

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the proposed re-signalling of the Great Western Main Line with the European train control system to *(a)* begin and *(b)* be completed. [61262]

Mrs Villiers: Network rail are responsible for delivering the UK's rollout of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS).

ERTMS rollout on the Great Western main line from Paddington to Bristol is expected to commence in March 2016 and be completed by early 2018. These dates are subject to confirmation by Network Rail following detailed planning.

High Speed Two Railway Line

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Redditch of the proposed High Speed Two route. [63241]

Mr Philip Hammond: High Speed Two would generate benefits of around £44 billion and support the creation of around 40,000 jobs. Although no specific assessment has been made on the economic benefits to Redditch, HS2 Ltd's analysis suggests that on the basis of trip origins approximately a quarter of the benefits from the first phase of HS2 would accrue to the West Midlands region.

In addition, the initial phase of HS2 could support the creation of 8,000 jobs surrounding the proposed HS2 stations in the West Midlands area, as well as helping to catalyse wider growth in the region, including towns in Worcestershire such as Redditch.

The completion of the second phase of the proposed HS2 network would be expected to deliver further benefits for the West Midlands region.

Level Crossings: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the procedures followed by *(a)* the Office of Rail Regulation and *(b)* Network Rail in implementing the safety recommendations arising from the fatalities at Elsenham level crossing in 2005. [61287]

Mrs Villiers: There are no plans to review the operational procedures followed by the independent rail safety regulator. With regard to Network Rail's implementation, it is a role of the Office of Rail Regulation to ensure that rail Accident Investigation Branch safety recommendations are duly taken into consideration, and where appropriate acted upon.

The Office of Rail Regulation re-opened the investigation into the accident in early 2011.

Motorcycles: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on campaigns to increase road safety for motorcyclists in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [62379]

Mike Penning: The spending review allocated £3.5 million for THINK! road safety communications in each year of the review period. Motorcycle safety remains a priority, however all communications are subject to the controls on advertising and marketing spend governed by the Efficiency and Reform Group (ERG). In 2011-12, ERG has approved expenditure of £1.12 million on the THINK! Motorcycle safety campaign. Plans for the rest of the spending review period have yet to be submitted and approved.

National Express East Coast

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what costs his Department incurred following the return by National Express of the East Coast Mainline franchise. [61501]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* A full report on the termination of the National Express East Coast contract, including costs incurred by the Department, can be found on the National Audit Office website at

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/east_coast_passenger_rail.aspx

Public Transport: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London, *(b)* Network Rail and *(c)* Southeastern Railway on public transport provision in South East London. [62938]

Mrs Villiers: Ministers have regular meetings with Network Rail and with the Mayor of London, at which a wide range of subjects are discussed.

The issue of provision of information to passengers, particularly at times when the rail service is disrupted, is discussed regularly.

In addition, officials from the Department for Transport also meet London and Southeastern Railway Ltd on a regular basis to discuss performance and a range of wider commercial issues.

Rail Delivery Group

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each member of the Rail Delivery Group; what employment experience relevant to the Group's work each has; and what the role and responsibilities of the Group are. [61266]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 727W, to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell), which sets out the details of the Rail Delivery Group.

Railways: Disability

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with passenger rail franchise holders on steps to be taken to meet the needs of passengers with disabilities. [63264]

Norman Baker: The Government are committed to an accessible rail system in which disabled passengers have the same opportunities to travel as other members of society, and rail franchise holders are fundamental to delivering that commitment. The Department for Transport is involved in an ongoing dialogue with the industry concerning the current situation and what further improvements may be made.

Franchise holders already have a number of specific legal obligations in relation to disabled passengers, including a requirement to produce a Disabled People's Protection Policy which states how they will protect the interests of disabled users of their trains and stations. The Department reviews and approves these documents on an annual basis.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the potential cost benefit to *(a)* rolling stock operators and *(b)* Network Rail of the introduction of a variable component to track access charges; [61253]

(2) what progress the Office of Rail Regulation has made in setting a variable component for track access charges. [61254]

Mrs Villiers: The structure and level of fixed and variable track access charges, paid by train operators to Network Rail, are set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) to ensure that Network Rail recovers the costs the regulator allows and to incentivise best use of the rail network.

ORR is currently undertaking a Periodic Review consultation in advance of the next regulatory settlement that considers issues relating to track access charges among other matters, including issues relating to the existing variable usage charges. The consultation runs until 2 September 2011 and can be found on the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.2446

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ticketing and settlement agreements are applicable to rail passenger services in the UK; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each agreement. [R] [61451]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* There is only one Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA) and it is the agreement between train operating companies (TOCs) that sets out how fares are created, honoured, and sold, and how revenue is settled. The TSA preserves through ticketing and ticket inter-availability, and provides the mechanism by which ticket retailing is regulated.

Each TOC's franchise agreement with the Secretary of State, and passenger licence granted by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), requires it to be a party to and comply with the TSA.

The TSA can be accessed by the following links.

1. *The main agreement*

   http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/66236/response/169201/attach/7/Appendix%20V.pdf

2. *The schedules*

   http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/66236/response/169201/attach/8/Appendix%20VI.pdf

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* consultation in respect of its dealings with each train operating company and the franchise each holds. [61452]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* I regret that the information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Passengers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the effect on passenger numbers of setting the cap on increases in rail fares at the retail prices index plus 3 per cent. in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013 and *(c)* 2014. [62389]

Mrs Villiers: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 335W, to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne).

Railways: Standards

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase the frequency of rail services in less populated areas. [63352]

Mrs Villiers: The Department's Community Rail Development Strategy, which seeks to make it easier for the rail industry and local communities to do more to ensure the long term health of local services, has aided innovative solutions which have led to increased rail services in some less populated areas. Local authorities are free to use funds allocated to them from the Government to enhance passenger facilities on rural lines and can fund additional services if they feel this is appropriate.

Rapid Transit Systems

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department were engaged in work on the future role of tram-train vehicles on the latest date for which information is available. [62499]

Mrs Villiers: Tram-train is potentially an important development that can deliver better services for passengers and reduce the cost of running the railway. Four officials from the Department are currently engaged on developing the Sheffield to Rotherham and Watford to St Albans tram-train pilots and do so as part of a portfolio of projects.

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take account of the closure of Filton airfield and the potential commercial and residential development of the site when deciding whether to provide funding to the North Fringe to Hengrove rapid transit scheme. [62738]

Norman Baker: Best and final funding bids for all schemes within the development pool need to be submitted to the Department by noon on 9 September. This is a competition and all bids will be judged in an equitable manner.

As part of their bid all promoters can detail any developments (such as housing or commercial development) that are linked with the scheme they are promoting.

Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989 to allow *(a)* registered nurses, *(b)* midwives, *(c)* ambulance first responders and *(d)* official first aiders to use flashing lighting when attending urgent medical cases or assisting the police; and if he will make a statement. [63262]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has no plans to revise the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations for flashing lamps.

Allowing the wider use of any restricted lighting function needs to be carefully considered as the warning they provide will become diluted if they are used too often. Ultimately this will be to the disadvantage of those who currently use them.

The lighting regulations are also subject to the recent 'Red Tape Challenge' and comments submitted will be considered.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of reducing the variety of rolling stock designs operating on the national network. [62605]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not recently undertaken a cost-benefit analysis of reducing the varieties of rolling stock designs on the National Network but I note that this was an important issue raised by Sir Roy McNulty in his report and we will be responding in due course.

Speed Limits

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to increase the level of support offered to rural communities wishing to lower speed limits on roads in their area. [61882]

Mike Penning: Local highway authorities already have control of local speed limits, and should take full account of local communities' views in setting these limits. A key theme in the Government's Strategic Framework for Road Safety published in May 2011 is the empowerment of local communities, including enabling the public to compare road safety performance in their local area with other similar areas. This will help communities to challenge local service providers on issues such as speed limits. Decisions on speed limits should be based upon comprehensive analysis of all the costs and benefits. The Department is intending to help local decision making through further guidance and an economic toolkit on speed limits.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to change the benefit-cost ratios mechanism used by his Department. [61283]

Norman Baker: It is important to note that investment decisions are not made mechanistically with sole reference to benefit-cost ratios. Rather, full account is taken of all relevant considerations including those that cannot be ascribed a monetary value.

In the interests of transparency, we have set down our approach in a document titled 'The Transport Business Case', which may be downloaded from our website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/transport-business-case/

We have no plans to change the way in which benefit-cost ratios are calculated.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Administration

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to reduce the administrative requirements in respect of *(a)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(b)* traffic commissioners. [61883]

Mike Penning: The potential to reduce administrative requirements on the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and traffic commissioners (who are supported administratively by the agency) is being considered actively including through the Red Tape Challenge and we will announce any proposals for change in due course.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which academies have selected a new sponsor since May 2011; who the sponsor is in each such case; and if he will make a statement. [63011]

Mr Gibb: Since May 2011, the only current academy where it has been agreed to replace a sponsor is St Michael and All Angels Church of England Academy in Southwark. The academy opened in September 2007, and is in the process of changing sponsor from the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education to Absolute Return for Kids (ARK). The academy will close in July 2013 and will re-open in September 2013, in new buildings, as a 4 form of entry ARK Schools Academy.

Academies: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many academies that were subject to errors in their funding allocation in 2010-11 also experienced an adjustment to their capital funding as a result of the closure of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [61687]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Queries have been raised about the 2010/11 funding allocations to Academies in North Yorkshire and Hampshire local authorities, and we are looking into these issues. No Academies in North Yorkshire have been allocated funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme. In Hampshire, Havant Academy had its capital allocation reviewed as part of the curtailment of BSF, and was awarded funding in December 2010.

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the report of the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood, Letting Children be Children; what response his Department gave to each representation; if he will place in the Library a copy of each such response; and if he will make a statement. [63118]

Sarah Teather: I invited a number of relevant businesses, industry associations, regulators and other non-governmental organisations to a round table meeting on 27 June to discuss the implementation of the recommendations in "Letting Children be Children", the report of the independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood by Reg Bailey published on 6 June. It was a positive meeting which discussed a wide range of action to respond to the recommendations, some of which is already under way.

I have also received representations from the Professional Publishers Association on the display of men's lifestyle magazines in newsagents and other retail outlets; and from the Mothers' Union giving their response to the Bailey review. I will be responding to these in due course. As with other recommendations of the Bailey review, it is for the businesses concerned, their trade associations and their regulators, to decide how best to implement the recommendations in order to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation.

The Department has also received correspondence from members of the public on different aspects of the Bailey review, including requests for release of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These individuals will be sent, or have already been sent, appropriate individual responses.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62483]

Tim Loughton: During the period May 2010 to the end of May 2011, a total number of 53,688 invoices were processed and paid on behalf of the Department for Education by our shared services provider. Of this number, 53,109 (98.9%) were paid within the Department's standard payment terms (payment within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice). 579 invoices were paid late (total value of £47.9 million).

The data for each month have been presented in the following table.

During the period, 78% of all invoices were paid within the Government's target of payment within five days and 94% within 10 days. In May 2011, we achieved 85%, 97% and 99.5% within five, 10 and 30 days respectively.

		Number of invoices paid:[1]						
		Within 5 days		*Within 10 days*		*Late (over 30 days)*[2]		
	Total invoices paid within month	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Value of late invoices (over 30 days) (£)*
2010								
May	5,224	3,979	76	4,898	94	82	1.6	5,605,260
June	5,340	4,141	78	5,043	94	69	1.3	3,941,979
July	3,978	2,944	74	3,717	93	53	1.3	932,340
August	4,502	3,407	76	4,284	95	26	0.6	1,471,738
September	4,009	3,017	75	3,597	90	37	0.9	3,700,384

		Number of invoices paid:[1]						
		Within 5 days		Within 10 days		Late (over 30 days)[2]		
	Total invoices paid within month	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Value of late invoices (over 30 days) (£)
October	3,976	3,309	83	3,784	95	28	0.7	832,858
November	4,223	3,356	79	4,052	96	22	0.5	962,965
December	3,203	2,467	77	3,035	95	15	0.5	533,855
2011								
January	2,897	2,146	74	2,680	93	33	1.1	628,753
February	4,209	3,299	78	3,943	94	161	3.8	27,873,741
March	4,980	3,732	75	4,736	95	25	0.5	739,161
April	3,863	3,257	84	3,778	98	11	0.3	130,928
May	3,284	2,785	85	3,180	97	17	0.5	624,475
Total	53,688	41,839	78	50,727	94	579	1.1	47,978,437

[1] Paid into supplier bank account within five, 10 or over 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice at our shared services provider.
[2] Standard terms and conditions are to pay within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63246]

Tim Loughton: The Department is currently reviewing the feasibility of installing low carbon energy technology on one of its main buildings, as part of a forthcoming roof refurbishment project.

This would be in addition to the 123 photovoltaic panels already installed on its building in Sheffield, which generate over 16,000 kWh of renewable electricity a year. Solar thermal technology is also installed on two of its building to provide hot water.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of Ministerial cars since his appointment. [62994]

Tim Loughton: Information relating to the cost and numbers of ministerial cars for the Department for Education and its predecessors prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The information on the cost and numbers of ministerial cars after 2005 to 2009 can be found within the Libraries of both Houses via the following annual written ministerial statements:

FY 2005/06: 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 110WS

FY 2006/07: 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 111WS

FY 2007/08: 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 118WS

FY 2008/09: 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS

FY 2009/10: published on the Department for Transport's website:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a.html

The overall costs for FY 2010/11 are being compiled and are due for release in July 2011.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

In line with the Ministerial Code published in May 2010, the Department for Education has reduced the number of its ministerial allocated cars/drivers from five cars to one car. Other Ministers now call on the 'on-demand' ministerial car service when needed.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 for the Department for Education is as follows:

Month	Number of ministerial car journeys
2010	
September	47
October	67
November	84
December	53
2011	
January	68
February	32
March	72
	426

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61675]

Tim Loughton: The Department's model contracts are based on the Office of Government Commerce's terms and conditions The model terms make provision for behavioural standards under statutory obligations and regulations, timely payments to sub-contractors,

appropriate levels of insurance, confidentiality of information, provision of suitable staff, security, protection of data, confidentiality and discrimination.

Since January 2011, the Department has published its contracts above £10,000 on Contracts Finder where details of the conditions can be viewed.

Disability: Ethnic Groups

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many local authorities have provided his Department with data on steps to support black and ethnic minority disabled children and their families in accessing short breaks. [63184]

Sarah Teather: 123 out of 152 local authorities in England provided the Department with some information on disabled children accessing short breaks as part of their 2009-10 Children in Need (CIN) census return.

The CIN census covers children receiving social care support. Not all children who are receiving short breaks will be included because some children receive short breaks without social care involvement.

The following table provides a breakdown of Children in Need receiving short breaks at 31 March 2010 by major ethnic group.

Ethnic breakdown of Children in Need in receipt of short breaks in England at 31 March 2010

Ethnicity	*Percentage breakdown*
White	79
Mixed	4
Asian or Asian British	8
Black or Black British	6
Other Ethnic Group	2
Refused/Not Obtained	1
Total	100

Notes:
1. Data based upon local authorities who submitted Children in Need census data at 31 August 2010.
2. Due to low numbers involved and to protect confidentiality, ethnicity is aggregated into groups.
3. White comprises of White British, White Irish, Traveller of Irish Heritage, Any Other White background and Gypsy/Roma.
4. Mixed comprises of White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other Mixed background.
5. Asian or Asian British comprises of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Any other Asian background.
6. Black or Black British comprises of Caribbean, African or Any other Black background.
7. Other Ethnic Groups comprises of Chinese and Any other ethnic group.
8. Short breaks includes seven different settings: overnight in child's home, overnight in carer's home, overnight in another setting, day-care in child's home, day-care in carer's home, day care in another setting, befriending service.
9. Some Children in Need may be receiving short breaks in two or more different settings. Each child is only included once in the above table.

Source:
2009-10 Children in Need census

The CIN census was not fully completed by local authorities in 2009-10, and therefore it is not possible to provide the above information at local authority level.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1139W, on the Discretionary Learner Support Fund, how much funding he has allocated to *(a)* transitional support for students currently in receipt of education maintenance allowance and *(b)* the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund in the next four academic years. [56219]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 23 May 2011]*: The following table shows the funding allocated to transitional support for those currently in receipt of the education maintenance allowance, and the funding that will be allocated direct to schools, colleges and training providers for them to award 16-19 bursaries, in each of the next four academic years:

Academic year	*2011/12*	*2012/13*	*2013/14*	*£ million* *2014/15*
Transitional support	194.2	—	—	—
16-19 bursary fund—direct to providers	115.5	180	180	180
Total	309.7	180	180.0	180.0

In each academic year the total value of the 16-19 Bursary Fund is £180 million. In 2011/12, which is a transitional year, the majority of young people in their second or third year of study who might be expected to apply for a bursary will be supported via the national administration arrangements. As a result, the amount that will be allocated directly to schools, colleges and training providers is less than the full value of the 16-19 Bursary Fund. The allocation has been calculated so as to enable schools, colleges and training providers to pay guaranteed bursaries to all young people in vulnerable groups, discretionary bursaries to young people in their first year of post-16 study, and 'top up' weekly payments to those who are currently in receipt of EMA should they consider it appropriate to do so.

Education: Basic Skills

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many hours of teaching in basic learning skills are required at each key stage; what other requirements his Department places on schools in relation to teaching of basic learning skills; and if he will make a statement. [62442]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]*: There are no requirements placed on the number of hours that schools must devote to the teaching of basic learning skills. Schools are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which may include such skills, but they are free to use their professional judgment on how this is organised and delivered. Building on the statutory curriculum, which comprises the basic school curriculum and National Curriculum, we believe it should be for individual schools to determine a curriculum structure that best meets the needs of their pupils.

English Baccalaureate

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the potential for school staff redundancies in subjects not included in the English baccalaureate. [60160]

Mr Gibb: The English baccalaureate is an option that we think should be open to all who have the ability to benefit from it although it may not be suitable for all pupils. Individual schools will take decisions on the subjects they offer based on the needs and choices of their pupils. There is also considerable scope to take other subjects alongside the English baccalaureate.

The Department's assessment of the number of new teachers required to be trained annually will continue to take account of a number of factors including teacher turnover. The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate.

Free Schools: Bradford

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of establishing the King's Science Academy free school in Bradford. [62532]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* We intend to publish business cases, Funding Agreements, and financial information for approved Free Schools when their final costs have been agreed. As is the case for all Free School projects, we are working to ensure that Bradford Science Academy (formerly known as King's Science Academy) represents a value for money investment of public funds. Publishing financial information before negotiations are finalised could make it more difficult to save taxpayers' money.

National Curriculum Review

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had on the National Curriculum Review with *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* external organisations. [63025]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) and I have had a number of discussions with officials within the Department of Education about the progress of the national curriculum review since it was launched earlier this year. In addition, he and I have, both separately and jointly, held a number of meetings and discussions with external organisations, such as teacher unions, subject associations and learned bodies, to discuss the review and the reform of the national curriculum.

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what timetable his Department has established for the completion of the national curriculum review; [63026]

(2) when his Department plans to publish its response to the evidence received in the course of the call for evidence phase of the national curriculum review; [63027]

(3) when recent assessment he has made of progress on the national curriculum review. [63028]

Mr Gibb: Full details of the review of the national curriculum, including its timetable, are available to view on the Department's website. We intend to publish new programmes of study for English, mathematics, science and physical education in autumn 2012, with first teaching in schools from September 2013. New programmes of study for any other subjects that are to form part of the new national curriculum will be made available to schools by September 2013, with teaching in maintained schools from September 2014. Beyond this, the review will also advise on matters relating to the implementation of the new national curriculum as described in its remit.

The call for evidence for phase 1 of the review closed on 14 April and we are currently analysing responses. The call for evidence summary report will be published in due course.

The review is continuing its work to analyse curricular design in the most successful international education jurisdictions, and is feeding that analysis into the development of new programmes of study for English, mathematics, science and physical education. At the same time it is also considering which other subjects should continue to feature in the national curriculum. It is our intention to publish our proposals early next year, in line with the published timetable.

Nurseries: Complaints

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of complaints made against childcare or day nursery businesses in 2010-11 were found to be *(a)* unfounded and *(b)* malicious; and what proportion were referred to the police for further investigation; [62130]

(2) how many and what proportion of complaints made against childcare or day nursery businesses in the *(a)* Metropolitan borough of Barnsley and *(b)* city of Sheffield in 2010-11 were found to be (i) unfounded and (ii) malicious; and what proportion were referred to the police for further investigation. [62131]

Sarah Teather: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 June 2011:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

As the regulator for childcare in England, Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, receives a significant number of concerns or complaints about people running childcare or day nursery businesses.

Ofsted's role as a regulator is not to prove or disprove the information provided by complainants. Instead, our responsibility is to consider, in the light of that information, whether the provider is failing to meet, or failed to meet at the time of any incident, the requirements and conditions of their registration. We investigate all concerns raised with us in order to determine whether the provider has breached requirements, and we take action where we find this to be the case. For these reasons we do not hold data that specifically addresses the queries raised. We do not record complaints as founded or unfounded, and neither do we know whether or not a complaint was made maliciously.

Some additional background may be helpful. Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, Ofsted looked into 8,750 concerns or complaints received against registered (and unregistered) childcare providers in England.

In 4,997 cases we found that the provider was meeting all the requirements for continued registration and it was not necessary for us to take any further action. 1,638 cases were referred to other agencies, including the local authority and the Police. The most common type of referral in such cases was to Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) to ensure that appropriate safeguarding action could be taken. Various degrees of enforcement action were taken in the other cases.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Sarah Teather MP, Minister of State for Children and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Parents: Ethnic Groups

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of black and ethnic minority parents and carers participating in parents forums in each local authority area. [63183]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education does not collect data about individuals participating in parents' forums for parents of disabled children.

The Department has recently undertaken provided funding to three regional groups of parents' forums to find ways to better engage with parents and carers from black and ethnic minority groups. We will publish more details of the findings from those pilots over the summer.

Physical Education

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make emergency life support skills part of the physical education syllabus; and if he will make a statement. [62914]

Mr Gibb: The Government have no plans to make emergency life support skills a part of the physical education syllabus. The non-statutory programmes of study for personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education currently provide a context for schools to teach pupils how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures, including ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations, how to find sources of emergency help and how to use basic and emergency first aid. Pupils learn to develop the skills to cope with emergency situations that require basic first aid procedures, including, at key stage 4 (ages 15 to 16), resuscitation techniques.

Primary Education: Chess

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that children are taught chess during their primary school education. [60945]

Mr Gibb: By reducing the requirements of the national curriculum and by other measures which will reduce bureaucratic burdens on schools, the Government are giving schools the space and resources to provide a truly rounded education for all pupils.

Religion: Education

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of excluding religious education (RE) from the English baccalaureate on the number of student teachers specialising in RE. [61289]

Mr Gibb: Religious education does not count towards the humanities element of the English baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. The teaching of religious education remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. One of the intentions of the English baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory religious education. There is considerable scope to take other subjects alongside the English baccalaureate.

The initial teacher training (ITT) targets for 2011/12 were announced on 31 January 2011 and published as part of the Statistical First Release on School Workforce (SFR11/2010). The ITT target for religious education for courses starting in 2011/12 is 460. The ITT targets beyond this, including religious education, have not yet been assessed but will continue to take account of a number of factors including decreasing secondary pupil numbers. The number of teachers that schools employ in future years will, as now, be a matter for them to decide, according to local needs and subject to statutory requirements on class sizes where appropriate.

Religion: English Baccalaureate

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education on the exclusion of religious education from the English Baccalaureate; and if he will make a statement. [63677]

Mr Gibb: Officials have held a number of meetings with NATRE, who have submitted information about the impact that they anticipate the English Baccalaureate will have on RE teaching in future. We do not currently collect systematic data on detailed subject option choices offered by schools or the choices pupils make on their GCSE subjects. However, the Department has work underway to assess whether and how the English Baccalaureate has influenced GCSE choices made in schools from September 2011. We will use this, together with a range of other information sources, to inform future policy development.

Religion: Secondary Education

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education on the effects of the English Baccalaureate proposals on religious education in secondary schools. [63245]

Mr Gibb: Officials have held a number of meetings with NATRE, who have submitted information about the impact that they anticipate the English Baccalaureate will have on RE teaching in future. We do not currently collect systematic data on detailed subject option choices offered by schools or the choices pupils make on their GCSE subjects. However, the Department has work underway to assess whether and how the English Baccalaureate has influenced GCSE choices made in schools from September 2011. We will use this, together with a range of other information sources, to inform future policy development.

Schools: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on what dates he met representatives of school examination boards between 16 May and 22 June 2011; [62352]

(2) when he was first informed of errors in school examination papers for use in 2011; and on what subsequent occasions he has been informed of errors in such papers; [62353]

(3) on what date he directed that all school examination papers should be rechecked; and on what date he received the report of that exercise; [62575]

(4) whether he plans to ensure that no student affected by an error in an A-level examination paper is refused a place at the university of their choice as a result of any effect of the error on the final examination grade. [62576]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* As the regulator of the awarding bodies and qualifications, Ofqual is taking swift and robust action to hold awarding bodies to account for these unacceptable errors. Since the Secretary of State was first made aware of an error in examination papers taken in schools during the summer 2011 series on 3 June, he has been informed as each additional error has been identified and has repeatedly spoken with Ofqual's chief executive and asked to be updated on their intended course of action.

Ofqual met the chief executives of the awarding bodies responsible for GCE and GCSE examinations between 16 May and 22 June, and it was Ofqual's decision, which the Secretary of State supports, to write to the chief executives of all awarding bodies responsible for GCE and GCSE examinations on 7 June. In her letter, the chief executive of Ofqual required the awarding bodies concerned to give their written assurance that they had implemented additional checks on the question papers for examinations that remained to be taken, to ensure that there were no further errors that had been missed by earlier quality assurance processes. Each awarding organisation provided Ofqual with written assurances by 13 June that such additional quality checks had been or would be made before papers were sat.

Ofqual will also be checking the awarding organisations' arrangements for securing redress, to ensure they are fair both to the candidates who were directly affected, and those who were not.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) on what date the OCR A-level physics paper of 21 June 2011 was rechecked for errors; on what date the error in the examination was first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the OCR have taken in consequence; [62551]

(2) on what date the OCR GCSE Latin paper of 20 June 2011 was rechecked for errors; on what date the error in the examination was first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the OCR have taken in consequence; [62552]

(3) on what date the errors in the AQA business studies paper of 24 May 2011 were first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the AQA have taken in consequence; [62553]

(4) on what date the AQA GCSE mathematics paper of 14 June 2011 was rechecked for errors; on what date the error in the examination was first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the AQA have taken in consequence; [62554]

(5) on what date the AQA AS-level computing paper of 14 June 2011 was rechecked for errors; on what date the error in the diagram was first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the AQA have taken in consequence; [62555]

(6) on what date the errors in the AQA AS-level geography paper of 24 May 2011 were first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the AQA have taken in consequence; [62556]

(7) when Ofqual completed its additional checks on examination papers; [62561]

(8) on what date he was first informed of errors in examination questions in the Edexcel biology paper of 16 May 2011; what information Edexcel provided to him *(a)* at that point and *(b)* subsequently; what steps the examination board have taken in consequence; what estimate has been made of the number of students affected by the error; and whether any estimate has been made of the number of students whose future educational opportunities will be adversely affected; [62562]

(9) what information he has received from Edexcel on the steps it plans to take to quantify the potential effect on examination results of the error in the biology examination of 16 May 2011; [62563]

(10) what steps Edexcel has proposed to take to remedy issues arising from errors in its examination papers in 2011; and on what date he was notified of such proposals; [62564]

(11) how many GCSE, AS and A-level exam papers were sat between 9 and 22 June 2011; how many such papers *(a)* were and *(b)* were not double-checked for errors; and in respect of how many which had been double-checked errors were discovered while students were sitting the examinations; [62565]

(12) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* potential maximum and *(b)* average difference to a mark issued for an examination paper in which there was a live error once the examination board has taken steps to account for the error; [62566]

(13) which examination papers set in the examination period of May and June 2011 contained live errors; and in respect of which such papers erratum notices were issued; [62567]

(14) on what date errors on the OCR mathematics paper of 26 May 2011 were first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the examination board have taken in consequence; [62568]

(15) on what date errors in the Edexcel Economics Unit 2 AS Macro paper of 27 May 2011 were first identified; by whom; and what steps *(a)* he and *(b)* the examination board have taken in consequence; [62569]

(16) on what date errors in the OCR AS-level ICT Coursework mark scheme were first identified; by whom; what steps OCR have taken in consequence; and what consideration was given to issuing an erratum notice in respect of the errors; [62570]

(17) how many errata notices were issued by examination boards *(a)* in each year since 2007 and *(b)* in 2011 to date; [62571]

(18) what *(a)* the policy and *(b)* practice of (i) Ofqual and (ii) its predecessor has been on the collection of information on live examination errors; [62572]

(19) how many examination papers *(a)* had and *(b)* had not been checked by examination boards following the reports made by Ofqual as at 21 June 2011; [62573]

(20) how many errors in examination papers set by *(a)* AQA, *(b)* EdExcel and *(c)* OCR were found as a result of the reports by Ofqual of 9 June 2011 before examinations were sat; and what steps were taken in cases where errors were found. [62574]

Mr Gibb: The errors that have come to light in GCSEs and A Levels are extremely serious and are unacceptable. As the regulator of awarding organisations and the qualifications they offer, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) have taken swift and robust action to hold awarding organisations to account for these mistakes, and to check that any mistakes in as yet untaken exams are identified and put right. Ofqual will also be checking the awarding organisations' arrangements for securing redress, to ensure they are fair both to the candidates who were directly affected, and those who were not. The Secretary of State for Education has had regular updates from the chief executive of Ofqual, Glenys Stacey, on Ofqual's current action. He has also asked to be kept informed about further steps they will be taking to ensure that awarding organisations do not repeat these mistakes. Fiona Pethick, Director of Regulation at Ofqual has written to the hon. Member providing further details and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Fiona Pethick, dated 28 June 2011:

I am responding to your parliamentary questions on behalf of Glenys Stacey, the Chief Executive of the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). Ofqual is the independent regulator of qualifications, examinations and assessments in England and of vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.

You will be aware that a number of your parliamentary questions relating to errors in this summer's examination papers have been passed from the Secretary of State to Ofqual to answer as they fall within our regulatory remit. These errors in examination papers are unacceptable and Ofqual is taking action to understand the root cause, ensure candidates affected get as fair a result as possible, and to consider what changes may be needed in future to awarding organisation processes and procedures. Later this week we will be publishing details of our inquiry into these errors.

There are three particular areas where Ofqual is not in a position to answer your questions. First, we do not hold information about which specific individual or centre identified the error. Secondly, we do not hold information about the dates on which checks on examination papers were made, nor do we hold information about the numbers of papers that were or were not re-checked. (Both, ref PQ nos: 62551, 62553, 62552, 62554, 62555, 62556, 62563, 62568,). Thirdly it is not possible to estimate the maximum and average difference to a mark issued as each situation is different. (Ref PQ: 62566).

Where we are in a position to answer your questions, I have grouped our responses below by theme.

Action Ofqual has taken

(Ref PQ no: 62561)

On 7 June Ofqual wrote to all GCSE and A level awarding organisations to require them to carry out additional quality checks on examinations that had yet to be taken. Each awarding organisation provided Ofqual with written assurances by 13 June that such additional quality checks had been made or would be made before papers were taken.

When it became apparent that further, avoidable, errors had occurred, I visited OCR to discuss these errors. Glenys Stacey and I also met with the Chief Executive Officers of the Awarding Organisations delivering GCSEs and GCEs last week.

We have published two statements on our website - one specifically aimed at candidates and another setting out the action we are taking. Ofqual has also published a detailed list of the specific examination papers that have been affected so that candidates can know whether or not they are affected and to know which awarding organisation to contact if they wish for further information.

We have announced that we will publish, this week, information about our inquiry into the errors this summer to establish all the facts, identify the root causes and make recommendations for action to help ensure, so far as possible, that such avoidable errors do not happen in future.

Live errors

(Ref PQ nos: 62565, 62567)

The published examination timetables show that between 9 and 22 June this year, 438 GCSE and 345 GCE papers were scheduled.

The following papers taken by candidates in England had errors in them which were not identified and corrected before the paper was taken. The notification dates are also included.

(Ref PQ nos: 62553, 62555, 62556. 62554, 62563, 62552, 62568, 62551)

Awarding organisation	*Subject*	*Date Sat*	*Date notified to Ofqual*
AQA	GCE AS Business Studies—Unit 2 Managing a Business: BUSS2	24 May 2011	3 June 2011
AQA	GCE AS Computing—Unit 2 Computer Components, The Stored Program Concept and the Internet: COMP2	7 June 2011	8 June 2011
AQA	GCE AS Geography—Unit 2 Geographical Skills: GEOG2	24 May 2011	3 June 2011
AQA	GCSE Mathematics (new specification)—Unit 2 Number and Algebra: 43602F[1]	21 June 2011	21 June 2011
CCEA	GCSE Business Studies—Unit 2 Business Development	6 June 2011	7 June 2011
Edexcel	GCE AS Biology—Unit 1 Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health: 6BI01	16 May 2011	17 May 2011
OCR	GCSE Latin—Unit 3 Latin Prose Literature: A403/02	20 June 2011	20 June 2011
OCR	GCEAS Maths-Decision—Mathematics 1:4736	26 May 2011	27 May 2011
OCR	GCE A2 Physics A—Fields, Particles and Frontiers of Physics: G485	21 June 2011	21 June 2011

[1] Printing error affecting some of the question papers.

Of these errors, three came to light after the additional checks had been made.

You also asked a series of questions about Edexcel Biology. We understand that 17,003 candidates sat this particular paper. Only one mark is affected for this particular AS unit so it is unlikely to have a significant impact on students' future education opportunities. (Ref PQ no; 62562)

Complaints

Ofqual has received complaints in relation to two papers that are mentioned in your Parliamentary Questions. These are:

OCR GCE AS level ICT coursework. Ofqual received a complaint about this paper on 16 June 2011. We have requested a detailed response from OCR to ascertain the number of candidates potentially affected by this complaint, the timeline, the rationale for not re-issuing a corrected mark scheme and the specific instructions given to moderators. (Ref PQ no: 62570)

Edexcel GCE AS Economics paper. Ofqual received a number of complaints about this paper and Edexcel have confirmed that although the paper does not contain an error it does contain a

question which could be answered in more than one way. Guidance has been issued to the marking team highlighting the two acceptable answers. (Ref PQ no: 62569)

Redress and actions that awarding organisations have taken

(Ref PQ no: 62551, 62552, 62553, 62554, 62555, 62556, 62563, 62564, 62568)

Ofqual has written to all relevant awarding organisations highlighting the importance of taking effective steps to limit the impact on students' marks and grades. The appropriate mechanisms for redress will differ depending on the context and we have confirmed that the following options could be considered:

Adjustments of the marking scheme to omit the question concerned or to give all students credit for the question concerned,

Taking account of all available evidence in awarding grades, including:

statistical analyses to understand any potential impact on students performance on questions that followed the error, and

statistical analyses comparing students' performance on the affected units with their performance on other units.

Allowing applications for special consideration, where appropriate,

Providing a no fee re-sit at the next opportunity, and

Providing an additional no fee re-sit before the end of the summer 2011 series.

Each awarding organisation has been required to provide Ofqual with a detailed report for each affected question paper which details the actions planned, informed by the analysis, together with the rationale for those actions. These will be received in the coming weeks once marking is completed.

In all cases awarding organisations have sent a letter of apology to schools and colleges (known as centres) where an error in an examination paper has come to light.

For the AQA GCSE Mathematics paper where the issue was a printing error, AQA have instigated an investigation with the printer of this paper.

Errata and re-prints

(Ref PQ no: 62571, 62572)

It is established policy and practice, both by Ofqual and its predecessor organisation, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), to require awarding organisations to provide timely notification of incidents that pose a threat to the integrity of the qualifications system. In the context of examination errors, we require awarding organisations to notify the regulators where an error is found that may threaten the validity of the assessment. An element of professional judgement has always been required about the nature and impact of an error.

Where an error is found before an examination paper is taken, either the paper is replaced or an erratum is issued. We routinely collect information at the end of each examination, series about the number of errata issued. We can confirm that in 2010 there were 34 erratum notices, in 2009 there were 34 erratum notices, in 2008 there were 18 erratum notices and in 2007 there were 27 erratum notices. For the 2011 examination series we will receive final information about errata that were issued prior to 7 June 2011 once all the examinations have been taken. However, we do know that there were 15 erratum notices which were issued as a result of the additional checks that we required.

For each of the following awarding organisations we can confirm that the following errors were identified and rectified as a result of the checks. (Ref PQ nos: 62573, 62574)

	Number of errors	*Erratum*	*Clarification notice*	*Replaced*
AQA	8	6	0	2
Edexcel	4	1	3	0
OCR	4	4	0	0

Please be assured that Ofqual takes the issue of errors in examinations very seriously and we will continue to oversee the actions of the awarding organisations to make sure that candidates are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues and to hear your views on the regulation of awarding organisations. My office will be in touch to offer dates.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much time he has spent on the matter of examination question errors since 16 May 2011; whom he has met, and on what date, in the course of his work on this issue; and if he will publish the minutes of each such meeting; [62558]

(2) what information his Department holds on the *(a)* names of schools and *(b)* proportion of schools with candidates in the Edexcel biology paper of 16 May 2011 which added time on to the examination period; [62559]

(3) how many errors in examination questions have been notified to his Department since 9 June 2011; [62560]

(4) what discussions he has had with representatives of Edexcel on the provision of means of redress to students who sat its A-level biology examination on 16 May 2011 and were affected by errors in the examination questions. [62646]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), has held no meetings with third parties outside Government on this issue. The Secretary of State spoke to Glenys Stacey, the chief executive of Ofqual on Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June on this matter. The Secretary of State's office does not provide minutes of such meetings, which are based on the provision on private advice to Ministers. I met Andrew Hall, chief executive of AQA informally at a conference organised by Reform on Tuesday 28 June.

The Department does not collect information on the individual examination papers chosen by schools, or on their conduct of examinations.

Since 9 June, two examination question errors have been reported to the Department. In addition one printing error, which had implications for the majority of questions on a GCSE mathematics paper, has been reported.

The errors that have been identified are unacceptable, and the examination awarding bodies concerned must take full responsibility for measures to ensure that candidates are not unfairly disadvantaged by the errors, and to ensure that it does not happen again. In doing so they must satisfy Ofqual that they are taking appropriate action to mitigate the impact of these errors.

To date, Ofqual is concentrating its efforts on the steps awarding organisations need to take now to ensure there are no further mistakes in this summer's series and make sure that awarding bodies are putting in place arrangements for securing redress, to ensure they are fair both to the candidates who were directly affected, and those who were not. It is extremely important that effective steps are taken to limit the impact on students' marks and grades, and maintain standards overall. Such redress aims to make good so far as is possible. Wider redress measures are broadly a matter for awarding organisations and they have been encouraged by Ofqual to be transparent with candidates about these.

Schools: Inspections

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools achieved a rating of outstanding in their Ofsted inspection in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Dartford constituency in each of the last five years. [61937]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 24 June 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by Inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Table A below shows the number of maintained schools judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 inclusive in Kent local authority and Dartford constituency. Equivalent data have also been provided for England for context, and the table shows the total number of inspections in each of these areas in each year.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment as an aid to scheduling the inspection of good and outstanding schools. We deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools each year and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. The sample of schools inspected is therefore skewed and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the very different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Maintained-schools/Inspection-outcomes

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11 were released on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection in (a) England (b) Kent local authority (c) Dartford constituency in each of the last five years

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
					Number/percentage
Number of schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness, and as a percentage of total number of inspections in the area					
England	648 (11%)	1,150 (14%)	1,146 (15%)	1,327(19%)	782 (13%)
Kent local authority	13 (9%)	24 (12%)	26 (11%)	21 (11%)	13 (8%)
Dartford constituency[1]	0	0	3	0	1
Total number of inspections in academic year					
England	6,128	8,323	7,866	7,065	6,171
Kent local authority	148	203	233	192	157
Dartford constituency	9	14	19	14	9

[1] Where numbers are small, percentages are not displayed.

Schools: Libraries

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the state of school library services; and if he will make a statement; [61893]

(2) whether he has made an estimate of the likely number of school library closures in the next academic year; and if he will make a statement; [62202]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the likely number of redundancies among school librarians in the next academic year; and if he will make a statement. [62210]

Mr Gibb: A good school library is a very valuable resource for pupils and teachers.

As we said in our response to the commission set up by the National Literacy Trust and Museums, Libraries and Archives "School Libraries: A Plan for Improvement", school libraries are not compulsory, but good school libraries and schools library services make a positive contribution to children's literacy.

Our aim is to put as much money as possible directly into schools' budgets, allowing schools to target resources appropriately and to make their own choices about their school library provision and book resourcing.

The Department has made no estimate of the likely number of schools library closures or any assessment of the likely number of redundancies in the next academic year. However, through the School Workforce Survey the Department collects data on the number of librarians in maintained schools in England and on the number of schools with librarians. The most recent data collected are as follows:

Headcount number of librarians in service in publicly-funded schools, by phase of education, November 2010, England

	Number
Nursery and primary	850
Secondary	3,290
Academies and CTCs	350
Special	30
Centrally-employed	40
Total	4,570

Headcount number of librarians in service in publicly-funded schools, by phase of education, November 2010, England

	Number

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Workforce Census.

Number of schools with librarians in service in publicly-funded schools, by phase of education, November 2010, England

	Number
Nursery and primary	800
Secondary	2,210
Academies and CTCs	230
Special	30
Centrally-employed[1]	10
Total	3,270

[1] Centrally employed librarians shows the number of local authorities that employ librarians to visit various schools.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Workforce Census.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to ensure that schools comply with their statutory duty to provide independent advice and guidance for year 11 pupils in an impartial manner; and what steps he plans to take to monitor the quality of the advice and guidance given. [62408]

Mr Gibb: Schools should be accountable to the pupils, parents and communities they serve. The evidence of whether schools are succeeding will be demonstrated both through pupil achievement and, crucially, through the destinations measure we plan to publish. If pupils are achieving and progressing then we should assume the school is providing effective support to inform the decisions that pupils make about their future education and career.

The Government have also accepted the recommendation of the Careers Profession Task Force to ask Ofsted to carry out a thematic review of careers guidance as a means of identifying excellent provision and establishing a baseline for future policy development. We are considering the most appropriate timing for this.

Students: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has assessed the merits of paying compensation to students who failed to gain a place at the university of their choice as a result of being awarded a lower grade arising from errors in examination questions; [62662]

(2) at what time and on what day *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department (i) first and (ii) subsequently spoke to Ofqual on live errors in examination papers in May and June 2011. [62593]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* To date, Ofqual is concentrating its efforts on the steps awarding organisations need to take now to ensure there are no further mistakes in this summer's exams and make sure that awarding bodies are putting in place arrangements for securing redress, to ensure they are fair both to the candidates who were directly affected, and those who were not. It is extremely important that effective steps are taken to limit the impact on students' marks and grades, and to maintain standards overall.

The Secretary of State for Education, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), spoke to Glenys Stacey, the chief executive of Ofqual on Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June on this matter.

Teachers: Academies

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements are made for the protection of the terms and conditions of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff of schools which become Academies. [62620]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* When a school converts to Academy status all staff who choose to move to the new Academy from the predecessor school transfer on their existing terms and conditions of service under the Transfer of Undertaking (Protection of Employment) regulations (TUPE).

The existing employer—either the local authority for community and voluntary controlled schools or the school governing body for foundation and voluntary aided schools—must consult with staff if it envisages that it will take measures related to the transfer which will affect employees, such as dealing with restructuring or changing terms to ensure that the views of all affected staff are taken into account.

Vocational Education

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on steps to revive junior technical provision; [62806]

(2) what assessment he has made of the steps which would be required to revive junior technical provision; [62807]

(3) what his Department's policy is on implementation of the recommendations of Alison Wolf's report on vocational learning on the revival of junior technical provision. [62808]

Mr Gibb: In her report on vocational education, Professor Wolf highlighted the role that colleges can play in providing vocational options for 14 to 16-year-olds and suggested that if colleges enrol students under 16 then they can revive junior technical provision. She recommended that the Government make explicit the legal right of colleges to enrol students under 16 and ensure that funding procedures make this possible.

In response to Professor Wolf's recommendations, all of which were accepted by Government, we made a commitment to communicate to all schools and colleges that more young people should be offered the opportunity to enrol in college pre-16. We also made a commitment to work with colleges in the autumn to investigate the barriers to pre-16 enrolment in colleges and consider the next steps.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62997]

Mr Duncan: Details of the number and cost of ministerial cars from 2005-06 to 2009-10 have been published annually by written statement and are available in the Library of the House. Details for 2010-11 are being compiled and will be released during July 2011. Information prior to 2005 is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

On taking up office all three Department for International Development (DFID) Ministers were given the use of a dedicated Government Car Service (GCS) car and driver. Following the publication of the 2010 Ministerial Code in May, Ministers agreed that only the Secretary of State would have use of his own car, and that all other DFID Minsters should use cars from the GCS pool. DFID immediately took steps to terminate our existing GCS contract, which contained a three-month notice period, and has tendered commercially through the *Official Journal of the European Community* our requirement for these services to ensure that we obtain best value for money.

From 4 September 2010 the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and I have used cars from the GCS pool and have made 545 journeys to 31 March 2011. The number of journeys made by the Secretary of State since September 2010 and information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 27W, on Libya: armed conflict, what the Civil Service grade is of the most senior official of his Department working on post-conflict planning. [63084]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The director general for the middle east and north Africa leads the Libya post-conflict planning work of the Department for International Development (DFID). The permanent secretary is also regularly engaged in this work.

DFID has set up a Libya Crisis Unit headed by a deputy director (grade 5). She is supported by two deputy heads (grade A1), who lead teams covering (a) Stabilisation and Transition Policy and (b) Humanitarian and Ministerial Engagement.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether officials of his Department involved in post-conflict planning in Libya have discussed the task with officials involved in post-conflict planning after the invasion of *(a)* Afghanistan in 2001 and *(b)* Iraq in 2003. [63087]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: A number of Department for International Development officials in the Libya Crisis Unit have personal experience of post-conflict planning for Afghanistan and Iraq. They have also worked closely with the International Stabilisation Response Team which includes people with post-conflict planning experience from across Government and more widely.

The UK Government's tri-departmental Stabilisation Unit was formed in 2004 as a response to the challenges faced in Iraq and Afghanistan. It provides expertise to the Whitehall teams working on Libya post-conflict planning based on practical lessons from previous work in conflict states (including Iraq and Afghanistan).

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department work in its Libya Unit; and what the budget of that unit for 2011-12 is. [63088]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are currently 15 people working full time in the DFID London Libya Crisis Unit, which also receives part-time support from a conflict adviser (50%) and a conflict, humanitarian and security (CHASE) humanitarian response manager (25%).

The UK has set aside £20.6 million to support post conflict stabilisation activities for Libya. This includes £8.5 million from the tri-departmental conflict pool and £12 million from DFID funds for Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible activities.

Any future humanitarian response will be needs based with a very clear focus on delivering results and adding value to the international response.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan. [63019]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Pakistan faces an education emergency. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa around half the population is illiterate; for females aged nine to 39, this rises to almost three quarters. As part of the UK Government's commitment to get up to 4 million children into school in Pakistan by 2015, our support to implement the Education Sector Plan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will get more than 600,000 boys and girls into primary school, and more than 200,000 boys and girls into secondary school. We will also get more than 20,000 women enrolled in literacy programmes, build 3,840 new classrooms and literacy centres, with upgraded facilities in a further 1,260 schools (e.g. girls lavatories and boundary walls). Our support will also help to increase the number of girls attending school.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department allocated to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan in real terms in each financial year since 2001. [63020]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: It is not possible to disaggregate the total amount of aid allocated to any one province in Pakistan without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department for International Development does provide substantial support for programmes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This includes support to implement the province's Education Sector Plan, which will get more than 600,000 boys and girls into primary school, and more than 200,000 boys and girls into secondary school by 2015. Our support for health services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will see 110,000 more children fully immunised, and significantly improve family planning services across the province by 2015.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the aid allocated by his Department to Yemen between February and June 2011 has been spent; and on what. [63102]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent £14.77 million on aid to Yemen between February and June 2011.

Of this, £9.88 million was spent on humanitarian assistance (a further £6.36 million of approved funds are still to be disbursed); £3.23 million on improving education; £1.21 million on strengthening the Yemeni state's ability to deliver basic services, including policing and justice, and management of the economy; £0.41 million on improving access to basic services for poor and vulnerable Yemenis, and £0.04 million on Yemen policy research.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether financial receipts from the New Homes Bonus are required to be spent in the local area of the development to which they relate. [62913]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus is not ring-fenced. The first £200 million was allocated to local authorities in April and authorities will be looking at how best to spend this funding to meet local needs. The priorities of local communities and barriers to growth are different across the country and the Government will not dictate where the Bonus should be spent.

However, local authorities and local councillors need to consider carefully how to respond to local wishes and ensure that the benefits of growth are transparent in the communities where growth takes place—for example, improving play areas, transport improvements or town centre regeneration.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to each local authority for the new homes bonus scheme. [62967]

Grant Shapps: The new homes bonus will match fund the additional council tax raised—using the national average in each band—for new homes and long-term empty properties brought back into use, with a premium for affordable homes for the following six years. Year 1 (2011-12) allocations for English local authorities were announced on 4 April and paid on 15 April. A full list of year 1 allocations has been placed in the Library of the House.

Full details of the calculation for the bonus for each local authority can be found in the online calculator, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment: Fires

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 180W, on Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment fires, what assessment he has made of the information on the August 2010 fires submitted to his Department; what recent discussions he has had with the Ministry of Defence fire service on emergency response co-ordination; and if he will make it his policy to strengthen the formal links between Royal Berkshire fire and rescue service and the Ministry of Defence fire service. [63360]

Robert Neill: The fire at Aldermaston AWE took place on 3 August 2010. The Ministry of Defence's fire and rescue service investigated the operational response to the incident and produced a report. This identified areas where improvements could be made, including arrangements with the Royal Berkshire fire and rescue service. This review has been completed and I understand the findings have been acted upon by the respective authorities. Officials in my Department liaise closely with the Ministry of Defence's fire and rescue service on a regular basis, and on a range of issues.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on anti-Semitism, for what reasons the UK Government uses the Macpherson definition of a racist incident; when the decision was taken to use this definition; who took the decision; whether representatives of the Jewish community were consulted on the definition to be used; and if he will make a statement. [63112]

Andrew Stunell: Sir William Macpherson's definition of a racist incident was developed during the Inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which reported in 1999. The Secretary of State for the Home Department's Action Plan in that same year accepted the definition.

A cross Government hate crime programme was established by Mr Justice Fulford following on from the Macpherson report. During 2007 the programme established a universal definition of hate crime adopted by all criminal justice agencies and Government Departments. This common definition built on the principles of the Macpherson definition and was developed with the oversight of the standing Independent Advisory Group, which includes representation from Jewish Community groups.

The full definition of 'Monitored Hate Crime' can be viewed on the police owned website True Vision at:

http://www.report-it.org.uk/hate_crime_data1

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 156W, on anti-Semitism, which agencies use the working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights; and if he will make a statement. [R] [63113]

Andrew Stunell: We do not keep central records on which agencies use the working definition. Criminal justice agencies adopted the common definition of 'Monitored Hate Crime' in 2007 and the Association of Chief Police Officers intend to include the working definition in the their Hate Crime Manual.

The full definition of 'Monitored Hate Crime' can be viewed on the police owned website, True Vision, at:

http://www.report-it.org.uk/hate_crime_data1

Departmental Official Visits

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 447W, on departmental official visits, and with reference to paragraph 74 of the Third Report of the Procedure Committee, Session 2008-09, on Written Parliamentary Questions, HC 952, if he will disclose the information requested on Ministerial visits that would have been disclosed had a request for the information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 been submitted to his Department. [61038]

Robert Neill: In this instance, the Department no longer holds the information requested.

EU Grants and Loans: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much European regional development fund funding was allocated to the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [63548]

Robert Neill: European regional development fund is allocated in seven year blocks. For the 2000-06 fund programme, €691 million was spent in the West Midlands programme. For the 2007-13 Fund programme, €399.9 million was allocated to the West Midlands programme.

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he is taking steps to provide support for fire and rescue services for the cost of maintaining fire hydrants. [63062]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant. This means that authorities are free to spend it on any service provided they meet their statutory obligations. Spending decisions must be a matter for the local authority, taking into account local priorities.

In new developments the water authorities often add on the cost of hydrant provision to the developer for the site.

Homelessness: Social Rented Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homeless households were offered accommodation by local authorities under Section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996 in each of the last five years; [63335]

(2) what assistance his Department provides for homeless households who are found to be intentionally homeless and not in priority need; [63336]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to encourage local authorities to use their powers under Section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996 to offer accommodation to homeless households who are found to be not in priority need; and what assessment he has made of the cost to the public purse of health, education and policing services arising from local authorities not using such powers. [63337]

Grant Shapps: In 2009/2010, 100,800 households were assisted to obtain alternative accommodation through Local Authorities' prevention/relief activities under section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996. A further 64,400 households were able to remain in their existing home.

Figures relating to local authorities' prevention/relief activities in 2009-10 were published last August at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200910

Figures prior to 2009-10 are not available on a comparable basis.

It is for local authorities to decide how best they use their powers to determine whether a homeless household is found to be intentionally homeless and not in priority need.

This Government takes homelessness very seriously, and that is why we are maintaining investment in homelessness grant at £100 million a year for each of the next four years to support local authorities and the voluntary sector in their work to tackle homelessness. This includes £10 million over the next two years for Crisis to help single people access and sustain private rented sector accommodation.

In addition, I established a cross-Government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people.

This Department has not taken any specific steps to encourage local authorities to use their powers under Section 192(3) of the Housing Act 1996 to offer accommodation to homeless households who are found to be not in priority need; and has not made any assessment of the cost to the public purse of health, education and policing services arising from local authorities not using such powers.

King Edward's Memorial Park

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if his Department will issue a temporary measure under the green areas designation initiative for King Edward's Memorial Park in Shadwell. [62713]

Robert Neill: The Natural Environment White Paper published on 7 June said we will consult later this year on proposals for a new green areas designation for use in local and neighbourhood plans.

Local Government Finance

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to provide funding to local authorities for the purposes of enabling a council tax freeze for the *(a)* 2012-13, *(b)* 2013-14 and *(c)* 2014-15 financial years. [61739]

Robert Neill: We have provided additional funding to local councils to freeze council tax for a year from April 2011, saving a typical family up to £72 on a band D home. The funding for the one-year freeze will continue over the spending review period to prevent council tax from shooting up next year, keeping down council tax and locking in that yearly saving for families over the period.

Thanks to this funding, households will benefit from lower council tax bills than would otherwise be the case in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Mayors: Referendums

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how long on average he expects a local authority to take to transfer from a leader and executive model to the shadow mayor model under the provisions of the Localism Bill; [62828]

(2) for what period of time a shadow mayor will be required to be in post before a confirmatory referendum is held under provisions in the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement; [62855]

(3) whether his Department has made an estimate of the likely average salary of a mayor who assumes chief executive functions within a local council; and if he will make a statement; [62857]

(4) what information will be made available to local authorities on changing local governance arrangements in advance of their required move to the shadow mayor model. [62868]

Robert Neill: The committee considering the Localism Bill in the other place has agreed amendments, supported by the Government, which remove all provisions for shadow mayors and mayoral management arrangements.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effects of adoption of the elected mayor model on levels of public *(a)* recognition, *(b)* satisfaction and *(c)* engagement in (i) Hartlepool, (ii) Middlesbrough, (iii) Bedford and (iv) Doncaster; and if he will make a statement. [62829]

Robert Neill: The Department's research paper, 'The New Council Constitutions—The Outcomes and Impact of the Local Government Act 2000', published in October 2007, includes an assessment of the effects of the adoption of the elected mayor model on the levels of public recognition, satisfaction and engagement.

Numerous other non-governmental reports have also been published on these matters.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that areas choosing a leader and executive governance model have access to similar powers and freedoms as areas choosing an elected mayor; [62856]

(2) what criteria he will use to determine whether an elected mayor outside the 12 largest cities in England will be granted the powers and freedoms granted to mayors of those cities; and if he will make a statement; [62858]

(3) with reference to the Localism Bill: creating executive mayors in the 12 largest English cities: impact assessment, when his Department expects to complete its consideration of the powers and freedoms to be granted to elected mayors; and when the second impact assessment on shadow mayors will be published. [62859]

(4) what application process elected mayors outside the 12 largest English cities who wish to be granted additional powers and freedoms will be required to follow; and if he will make a statement. [62869]

Robert Neill: The Institute for Government and Centre for Cities' report suggests mayors, particularly in our major cities, should have greater powers to promote economic growth including over issues such as transport and strategic planning. We are looking to each of the major cities to tell us the type of powers they would expect their mayor to have, and in our Structural Reform Plan we are committed to consult in September this year on mayoral powers. Our consideration of possible mayoral powers will include looking at their potential impact on the areas concerned, and at whether any such power might appropriately be given to other elected mayors outside the major cities, having regard to the circumstances of their local authority.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department expects to publish a draft recall mechanism for elected mayors; and if he will make a statement. [62860]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing. We are currently considering what would be the fairest, most appropriate and robust procedure and we intend to make a statement soon setting out our plans to establish a recall mechanism.

Once a recall system is introduced for Members of Parliament, we intend to consider possible recall mechanisms for other elected offices, including local authority elected mayors.

Heidi Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings his Department has held with other Government departments to discuss the powers of elected mayors under the provisions of the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement. [62861]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from other Departments to discuss a range of matters.

Mobile Homes

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on his Department's consultation on steps to protect park home owners. [63688]

Grant Shapps: On 10 February 2011, I announced a proposal to consult on a range of measures to improve the licensing regime which applies to park home and caravan sites so local authorities are better equipped and resourced to tackle problems of poor management in the sector and so better protect the health and safety of residents. I also announced that I plan to consult on improvements to the buying and selling process of park homes to prevent the unacceptable practice of the blocking of lawful sales by unscrupulous site owners and to provide an effective means of redress for residents where this happens. In May, myself and officials met key industry and resident partners, and officials met separately with local authority partners and representatives of holiday caravan owners, to help inform the consultation and gain a better understanding of the expectations and aspirations of our partners in this sector of the housing market. The Department plans to publish the consultation shortly.

Non-Domestic Rates: Third Sector

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future level of funding for local authorities to provide *(a)* mandatory and *(b)* discretionary business rate relief for (i) community amateur sports clubs and (ii) charitable community organisations. [62981]

Robert Neill: Central Government fully fund mandatory relief and part funds discretionary relief for Community Amateur Sports Clubs and charities. The Government support and value the role of mandatory and discretionary rate relief.

Quarrying: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to make a decision on the proposed westerly extension to Hermitage Quarry, Aylesford, Kent, reference TM10/2029, in Maidstone and The Weald constituency. [63259]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), is currently considering whether to call-in this planning application for his own consideration or to leave the decision with Kent county council. He hopes to make his decision by the end of July.

Social Services: Finance

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has met the Secretary of State for Health to discuss implications for local authorities of the forthcoming Dilnot Commission report. [62800]

Robert Neill: Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department for Health to discuss a range of matters.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with local authorities the allocation of additional funding provided for social care. [63121]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

Officials and Ministers from the Department of Health have regular discussions with local authorities and representatives from local government on the spending review settlement for social care, and will continue to do so.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Buildings

Jesse Norman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the address is of each office property occupied by her Department outside Greater London which it *(a)* owns and *(b)* rents; what the level of utilisation is of each such property; what the capital value is of each such property it owns; and what the (i) annual rental cost and (ii) length of lease agreement is of each rented property. [61179]

Damian Green: The Department is taking steps to reduce the size of its office estate to meet its future business needs and reduced staffing levels. Measures to deliver this include consolidation of accommodation across the Home Office group. Estate consolidations are under way in London, Croydon and Liverpool. In Croydon for instance buildings totalling 26,000 square metres were surrendered last December.

Utilisation rates change regularly and are monitored by estates managers directly as part of estate rationalisation planning, rather than being centrally recorded. The disclosable details of the Department's estate outside Greater London taken from the estate database are provided in a table which has been placed in the House Library. The table provides the name of the building or function within its main town or nearest main town. This may comprise some individually leased or multiple spaces.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63323]

Damian Green: In the last financial year 45% of purchased electricity on the Home Office estate came from low or zero carbon renewable sources. We have no current plans to generate low carbon energy but, with our facilities managers, we are constantly reviewing the latest technologies against the potential of our assets to install such technologies.

We have already implemented a programme of measures to reduce CO_2 emissions as part of the Prime Minister's target to cut energy use by 10% across central Government

in 12 months, including introducing a payment by results mechanism as an incentive for one of our facilities managers' suppliers to deliver energy and carbon savings.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to discussing changes of fees for firearm and shotgun certificates with organisations representing firearms users and the gun trade. [63077]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has sought and received some information from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on police costs in granting and renewing certificates which has been discussed with organisations representing firearms users and the gun trade. Further information is being sought and when this has been received the data will be analysed and we will hold discussions with all interested parties on the proposed new fee levels.

Metropolitan Police

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many positions in the Metropolitan Police Service are designated as police staff roles; [63192]

(2) how many police staff roles in the Metropolitan Police Service are occupied by police officers. [63193]

Nick Herbert: The requested information is not collected centrally in this form. Latest available figures published by the Home Office show that there were 32,900 police officers, 14,047 police staff and 4,387 police community support officers employed by the Metropolitan Police Service on 30 September 2010.

These figures are on a full-time equivalent basis and exclude designated officers (section 38) and traffic wardens.

Metropolitan Police: Disability

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in the Metropolitan Police Service are *(a)* disabled and *(b)* placed on restricted duties. [63194]

Nick Herbert: Of the police officers in post in the Metropolitan Police Service on 31 March 2010, 184 were designated as disabled and 1,122 were placed on restricted duties.

Disability is self-declared following the definition used in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This figure quoted is a full-time equivalent figure that has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Restricted duties are duties or conditions approved, other than for recuperative purposes, for fixed periods totalling more than 28 consecutive days (including rest days) for any officer who is unable for a specific reason to carry out one or more aspects of full operational duty. This figure quoted is a headcount figure.

Data are unverified and provided on a provisional basis only.

Metropolitan Police: Manpower

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civilian staff are employed to assist the Metropolitan Police Service in the investigation of crimes. [63404]

Nick Herbert: Figures are not collected to show the total number of police staff employed in this role. Latest available data show the number of designated investigation officers (section 38) in post in the Metropolitan Police Service on 31 March 2010 was zero.

Designated investigation officers are persons employed by the police authority who have been chosen by chief officers to exercise specified powers which would otherwise only be available to police officers. These and their designated police staff were introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Sections 38 and 39 of the Act enables the appropriate designation of skilled police staff to one or more of four roles: police community support officer, investigation officer, detention officer and escort officer.

Police: Accountability

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a police and crime commissioner will be authorised to appoint a civilian to the position of chief constable from May 2012; and if she will make a statement. [46798]

Nick Herbert: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill currently restricts eligibility for appointment to the position of chief constable to persons already holding the office of constable. The Government have brought forward amendments to the Bill for consideration by the House of Lords on Report in that House. These amendments would extend the eligibility criteria by allowing a person who has previously held the office of constable to be appointed. This would mean, for example, that a retired chief constable would be eligible. A person who has not previously been a member of a police force (and therefore not held the office of constable) will continue to be ineligible.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the incidence of cancer was in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* primary care trust area, *(c)* hospital trust area, *(d)* region and *(e)* social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. [63353]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of cancer was in each (a) constituency, (b) primary care trust area, (c) hospital trust area, (d) region and (e) social demographic group in the most recent period for which figures are available. [63353]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

The tables provide the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in each parliamentary constituency (Table 1), primary care organisation (Table 2) and region in England for the year 2008.

Copies of Tables 1 and 2 have been placed in the House of Commons library. Table 3 is included in this answer.

ONS does not publish figures on cancer incidence by hospital trust area or social demographic group. NHS hospital trusts are commissioned by primary care organisations to provide health services. Whilst primary care organisations have geographical boundaries, hospital trusts do not. Information on cancer incidence by social demographic group is not available, as this information is not routinely recorded on individual cancer registrations.

The latest published figures on the incidence of cancer in England are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/mb1-39/mb1-no39-2008.pdf

Table 3. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, persons, regions of England, 2008[1, 2, 3]

Region	*Cancer registrations*
North East	13,748
North West	37,022
Yorkshire and the Humber	26,632
East Midlands	23,681
West Midlands	26,798
East of England	29,270
London	27,471
South East	40,719
South West	29,468

[1] Cancer incidence is defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44, non-melanoma skin cancer

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2011.

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in 2008.

Charity Commission: Manpower

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the level of staff turnover was in the Charity Commission office in *(a)* London and *(b)* Liverpool in each of the last 10 years. [63839]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 4 July 2011:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what the level of staff turnover was in the Charity Commission office in (a) London and (b) Liverpool in each of the last 10 years. [63839]

The figures are shown in the table below.

The Charity Commission has not made anyone compulsorily redundant in the last 10 years. A number of people have left voluntarily via exit schemes under the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. These are shown in the right-hand column and are a subset of the voluntary leavers.

		Staff in post at start	*All leavers*	*% turnover*	*Voluntary compensated exits*	*% turnover*
2001/02	Liverpool	230	27	12	0	0
	London	175	48	27	0	0
2002/03	Liverpool	228	22	10	0	0
	London	171	31	18	0	0
2003/04	Liverpool	248	36	15	0	0
	London	170	35	21	0	0
2004/05	Liverpool	225	25	11	0	0
	London	169	37	22	0	0
2005/06	Liverpool	224	29	13	0	0
	London	160	32	20	1	1
2006/07	Liverpool	206	35	17	10	5
	London	145	39	27	4	3
2007/08	Liverpool	196	18	9	1	1
	London	134	26	19	7	5
2008/09	Liverpool	197	16	8	1	1
	London	127	35	28	12	9
2009/10	Liverpool	224	13	6	0	0
	London	116	22	19	1	1

		Staff in post at start	All leavers	% turnover	Voluntary compensated exits	% turnover
2010/11	Liverpool	224	23	10	0	0
	London	116	20	17	1	1

I hope this information is helpful.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Steve Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each Government Department contributed to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in respect of *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [62597]

Mr Maude: The employer contributions received by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme are in the following table.

Name	2009-10	£ 2010-11
HM Revenue and Customs	362,997,727.09	321,693,053.28
Ministry of Defence	313,395,072.01	316,193,342.69
Jobcentre Plus	286,934,847.85	289,702,842.28
Prison Service	248,699,605.89	248,121,544.61
Metropolitan Police (Civilian Staff)	113,786,972.71	116,267,435.98
Home Office	111,875,807.75	142,385,375.91
Department for Work and Pensions	69,094,668.63	71,348,233.14
Ministry of Justice	67,011,085.67	68,821,199.18
Crown Prosecution Service	55,615,387.16	55,801,400.75
Scottish Government	46,339,660.40	46,824,546.37
Disability and Carers Service	46,244,670.73	49,693,874.87
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	41,440,270.46	41,103,285.87
Greater London Magistrates Courts Authority	41,303,009.11	39,595,119.18
Welsh Assembly Government	35,518,651.39	34,970,326.14
Government Communications HQ	35,121,088.29	35,784,428.60
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	32,337,485.91	31,474,388.09
Land Registry	30,662,996.56	28,015,906.27
Health and Safety Executive	26,617,427.77	27,258,108.23
Other (employers who contributed less than £25 million)	854,331,663.37	828,134,887.64
Total	2,819,328,098.75	2,793,189,299.08

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63255]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office currently has no plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who work less than 16 hours a week are receiving jobseeker's allowance. [63531]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who work less than 16 hours a week are receiving jobseeker's allowance. (063531)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics on claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from Jobcentre Plus administrative data, however this source does not provide information on the employment status of claimants.

An alternative source of information for JSA claimants for local areas is the Annual Population Survey (APS), however this source does not have sufficient sample to provide estimates for working claimants in parliamentary constituencies.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Social Media

Dr Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department provides guidance to special advisers on the use of Twitter and other social media for the purposes of engaging in debate on matters of national controversy related to matters for which their Minister *(a)* has and *(b)* does not have responsibility. [63689]

Mr Maude: Standards of conduct set out in the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code apply to all forms of official communication.

Copies are available in the Library of the House and can be accessed on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/special-advisers-code-of-conduct.pdf

and the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk

Unemployment: Graduates

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of graduates registered

as unemployed in the first year after graduation remained unemployed for *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18 and *(d)* 24 months in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [63375]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of graduates registered as unemployed in the first year after graduation remained unemployed for (a) six, (b) 12, (c) 18 and (d) 24 months in the latest period for which figures are available. 63375

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, estimates of the proportion of graduates registered as unemployed in the first year after graduation and remaining unemployed are not available from the LFS.

Unemployment: Young People

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many young adults were unemployed for over 12 months in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 18 months. [63691]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many young adults were unemployed for over 12 months in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 18 months. (063691)

The Office for National Statistics compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation definitions; however estimates for young adults for this geography and duration are not available. As an alternative, counts based on claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) have been provided from administrative data.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16 to 24 years who have been claiming JSA for more than 12 months within each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 18 months. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

JUSTICE

Community Orders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours of community service required by each order was in each probation service area in the latest period for which figures are available. [63365]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the average length of unpaid work requirements started by offenders in each probation area for the year 2010 (latest available). Unpaid work is the current term for what was previously known as community service.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Average length of unpaid work requirements started in 2010, by probation area and order type

Area	*Community order*	*Hours* *Suspended sentence order*
Avon and Somerset	89.7	131.5
Bedfordshire	110.3	150.6
Cambridgeshire	94.3	132.1
Cheshire	106.1	156.8
Teesside	96.1	138.1
Cumbria	93.1	137.3
Derbyshire	90.0	123.0
Devon and Cornwall	111.5	140.9
Dorset	98.3	134.1
Durham	99.1	130.3
Essex	89.4	129.9
Gloucestershire	86.2	131.7
Hampshire	101.8	137.1
West Mercia	118.0	155.0
Hertfordshire	95.3	128.2
Humberside	104.2	143.3
Kent	107.8	148.2
Lancashire	92.3	127.5
Leicestershire	97.5	117.6
Lincolnshire	87.4	129.9
Greater Manchester	118.5	149.4
Merseyside	111.5	158.2
Norfolk	98.6	127.0
Northamptonshire	97.9	132.4
Northumbria	90.1	127.5
Nottinghamshire	97.1	129.0
Thames Valley	126.2	153.3
Staffordshire	94.0	142.5
Suffolk	86.4	124.7
Surrey	87.1	130.4
West Sussex	104.8	145.8
Warwickshire	81.2	116.8
West Midlands	116.2	142.8
Wiltshire	86.7	119.9
North Yorkshire	97.2	139.1
South Yorkshire	95.0	134.3
West Yorkshire	117.1	152.3
Dyfed-Powys	98.5	136.6
Gwent	105.9	147.0
North Wales	109.7	164.4
South Wales	106.6	146.3
London	115.0	144.8
England and Wales	104.4	140.8

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of offenders were given community service orders in each probation service area in each of the last three years. [63402]

Mr Blunt: The tables show the number of offenders starting community and suspended sentence orders with unpaid work requirements attached (and the proportions of total orders) for the years 2008 to 2010 (latest available).

Unpaid work is the current term for what was previously known as community service.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Offenders starting community orders and suspended sentence orders with unpaid work attached in each of the last three years in each probation area, with proportion of all orders started

	2008			
	Community orders with unpaid work	*Percentage of all community orders*	*Suspended sentence orders with unpaid work*	*Percentage of all suspended sentence orders*
Avon and Somerset	1,397	51	384	46
Bedfordshire	728	63	181	52
Cambridgeshire	942	61	364	51
Cheshire	1,336	58	319	41
Teesside	948	43	268	35
Cumbria	885	63	213	57
Derbyshire	1,189	52	474	45
Devon and Cornwall	1,199	58	364	47
Dorset	574	50	202	41
Durham	752	44	259	41
Essex	1,948	58	490	42
Gloucestershire	452	40	150	41
Hampshire	2,238	56	629	47
West Mercia	1,120	53	372	50
Hertfordshire	1,027	50	267	43
Humberside	1,185	56	454	46
Kent	1,977	66	620	51
Lancashire	1,693	40	553	35
Leicestershire	1,132	54	428	44
Lincolnshire	568	46	175	36
Greater Manchester	4,408	59	1,479	46
Merseyside	1,993	48	642	43
Norfolk	971	67	368	55
Northamptonshire	639	47	182	38
Northumbria	1,740	41	481	35
Nottinghamshire	1,427	48	409	41
Thames Valley	2,031	59	681	50
Staffordshire	993	46	369	40
Suffolk	714	62	235	48
Surrey	877	59	241	49
Sussex	1,586	60	537	52
Warwickshire	533	53	128	49
West Midlands	3,487	49	1,333	40
Wiltshire	614	59	144	51
North Yorkshire	908	60	229	46
South Yorkshire	1,936	53	670	46
West Yorkshire	3,361	50	656	50
Dyfed-Powys	413	48	197	51
Gwent	715	51	237	46
North Wales	928	55	248	40
South Wales	1,971	54	733	45
London	9,245	59	3,220	49
England and Wales	64,780	54	20,585	45

	2009			
	Community orders with unpaid work	*Percentage of all community orders*	*Suspended sentence orders with unpaid work*	*Percentage of all suspended sentence orders*
Avon and Somerset	1,561	53	407	42
Bedfordshire	790	66	199	5[illegible]
Cambridgeshire	1,022	67	433	60
Cheshire	1,313	56	302	42
Teesside	828	36	256	33
Cumbria	724	59	194	53
Derbyshire	1,303	57	502	54
Devon and Cornwall	1,271	58	429	48

	2009			
	Community orders with unpaid work	*Percentage of all community orders*	*Suspended sentence orders with unpaid work*	*Percentage of all suspended sentence orders*
Dorset	564	48	183	40
Durham	494	30	165	26
Essex	2,164	62	662	48
Gloucestershire	423	39	120	38
Hampshire	2,002	51	453	42
West Mercia	1,295	57	479	56
Hertfordshire	961	48	294	42
Humberside	1,210	55	433	44
Kent	2,191	69	650	56
Lancashire	1,724	41	527	35
Leicestershire	991	53	409	42
Lincolnshire	625	53	228	49
Greater Manchester	4,425	58	1,471	48
Merseyside	2,125	53	676	47
Norfolk	996	68	334	53
Northamptonshire	763	60	244	48
Northumbria	1,591	38	584	37
Nottinghamshire	1,552	51	480	48
Thames Valley	1,908	61	697	55
Staffordshire	1,010	48	400	45
Suffolk	737	59	240	48
Surrey	1,022	61	255	51
Sussex	1,538	55	486	50
Warwickshire	641	58	155	52
West Midlands	3,987	53	1,731	46
Wiltshire	599	56	114	49
North Yorkshire	1,040	62	265	54
South Yorkshire	2,168	57	717	50
West Yorkshire	3,718	53	793	50
Dyfed-Powys	475	50	153	46
Gwent	717	51	286	52
North Wales	1,012	58	322	46
South Wales	1,953	52	787	50
London	9,613	61	3,884	53
England and Wales	67,046	55	22,399	48

	2010			
	Community orders with unpaid work	*Percentage of all community orders*	*Suspended sentence orders with unpaid work*	*Percentage of all suspended sentence orders*
Avon and Somerset	1,575	54	485	47
Bedfordshire	712	65	260	59
Cambridgeshire	1,064	68	413	57
Cheshire	1,242	57	339	44
Teesside	719	33	232	31
Cumbria	690	57	171	48
Derbyshire	1,140	55	515	53
Devon and Cornwall	1,099	52	426	54
Dorset	507	48	201	44
Durham	593	35	229	34
Essex	2,045	62	691	51
Gloucestershire	377	40	133	41
Hampshire	1,950	48	592	44
West Mercia	1,086	53	380	52
Hertfordshire	958	47	347	44
Humberside	1,191	53	472	46
Kent	1,995	66	632	53
Lancashire	1,682	41	654	38
Leicestershire	1,089	57	430	48
Lincolnshire	629	52	201	45
Greater Manchester	4,467	56	1,551	50
Merseyside	1,853	54	775	48

	2010			
	Community orders with unpaid work	*Percentage of all community orders*	*Suspended sentence orders with unpaid work*	*Percentage of all suspended sentence orders*
Norfolk	1,043	70	373	55
Northamptonshire	800	59	278	49
Northumbria	1,571	39	515	37
Nottinghamshire	1,611	53	549	48
Thames Valley	1,998	62	772	58
Staffordshire	1,124	50	466	55
Suffolk	588	54	236	49
Surrey	806	58	252	56
Sussex	1,546	55	517	53
Warwickshire	566	58	155	52
West Midlands	3,555	54	1,776	50
Wiltshire	529	52	121	48
North Yorkshire	951	60	230	52
South Yorkshire	2,083	57	737	52
West Yorkshire	3,618	53	1,126	59
Dyfed-Powys	437	51	149	48
Gwent	753	57	308	56
North Wales	958	54	356	53
South Wales	1,999	53	948	52
London	9,465	62	4,164	57
England and Wales	64,664	54	24,157	50

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget was for the administration of community service orders in each probation service area in each of the last four years; and what he expects those budgets to be in each of the next four years. [63435]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has not previously collected such historical information and to do so now would involve surveying every trust; the cost of doing this would be disproportionate.

NOMS is developing systems to break down current expenditure on a service by service basis. Once the information has been reviewed and validated we will then consider how best to use it to meet commitments under the Government's transparency agenda.

The future funding for the provision of community payback is currently subject to competition, thus future budgets will be dependent on negotiated contract bid prices, which are yet to be determined.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63324]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has plans to generate low carbon energy from its estate which we can export to the grid. In association with Partnerships for Renewables the National Offender Management Service's planning application for wind energy generation at Standford Hill on the Isle of Sheppey, was approved in May 2011. Partnerships for Renewables will discharge the planning conditions for this project during 2011-12 with site preparation and construction scheduled for early 2013.

The Ministry of Justice also has plans to generate low carbon energy from its estate for on site consumption. HM Courts and Tribunals Service are piloting photovoltaics at two sites: Leeds Combined Court Centre and Aberystwyth Law Courts.

The National Archives at Kew recently installed a CHP (combined heat and power) plant to generate low carbon electricity on-site.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62988]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was established on 9 May 2007, its predecessor was the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA).

Information on the number and cost of ministerial cars is published in the Secretary of State for Transport's annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses using the links provided at the end of this answer. The requested data for the Department are shown in the following table:

Department	*Year*	*Number of cars*	*Cost (£)*
MOJ	2009-10	4	320,429.90
MOJ	2008-09	5	310,600.00

Department	Year	Number of cars	Cost (£)
MOJ	2007-08	4	387,900.00
DCA	2006-07	5	339,000.00
DCA	2005-06	5	293,400.00

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and due for release in July 2011. Information prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

In September 2010, in order to make savings, the MOJ transferred from allocated ministerial cars to a system of on-demand bookings for individual car journeys. The vast majority of these journeys are home-to-work and work-to-home journeys, where Ministers of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State are able to work on restricted papers from their ministerial red boxes.

Ministers are otherwise encouraged to walk or take public transport during the working day.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is included in the following table:

Period	Jobs
2010	
September	78
October	103
November	126
December	75
2011	
January	91
February	90
March	120
Total:	683

Links to DFT written ministerial statements:

2005/06:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006/07:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007/08:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008/09:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009/10:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a.html

Homicide: Finance

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the organisations which have been successful in bidding for funding from the 2011-12 Homicide Fund. [62863]

Mr Blunt: Details of the organisations which were successful in bidding for funding from the 2011-12 Homicide Fund were published on the Ministry of Justice website on 30 June.

Legal Aid

Mr Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was paid in legal aid to Jeffrey Samuels QC in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [63248]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is not readily available. We are compiling the information and will write to the hon. Member. A copy of the letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the response to his consultation on Reform of Legal Aid from *(a)* the Armed Forces Criminal Legal Aid Authority, *(b)* the National Audit Office, *(c)* the NHS Litigation Authority, *(d)* the Social Entitlement Chamber of the First Tier Tribunals and *(e)* each other Government Department. [63269]

Mr Djanogly: The items requested at *(a)* to *(d)* will shortly be placed in the Library. No formal responses from other Government Departments were received.

Legal Aid: Iraq

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 179W, on legal aid: Iraq, in respect of how many cases relating to alleged abuse of Iraqi citizens by UK armed forces legal aid is being provided to persons not resident in the UK. [62969]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 179W, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not specifically record cases under the category of 'abuse by the UK armed forces'. In addition, the LSC cannot provide information on the number of legal aid applicants non-resident in the UK without incurring disproportionate cost.

Missing Persons: Death

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to align the law of England and Wales with that of Scotland and Northern Ireland in regard to presumption of death where a person has been missing for a significant period. [62804]

Mr Djanogly: At this time Government have no plans to make changes in this area. However, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Runaway and Missing Adults and Children is currently carrying out research in this area. We will carefully consider any recommendations that they may make as a result of their work.

Offenders: Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance the National Offender Management Service has provided to probation trusts in respect of bidding for unpaid work during the tendering process. [63059]

Mr Blunt: NOMS has encouraged probation trusts to seek NOMS/MOJ advice on the contractual models that they are developing. In addition, NOMS/MOJ will work with probation trusts to provide feedback and further advice to those probation trusts that have been accepted as 'prime' bidders for lots 2-6. This advice and information is outside of the formal bidding process, and care is taken to ensure that an 'ethical wall' is in place in order to ensure a fair approach for all bidders.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* third sector organisations, *(b)* charities, *(c)* private companies and *(d)* other organisations are working in prisons to support prisoner rehabilitation; and how many prisoners are so supported. [62548]

Mr Blunt: Management information held centrally indicates that there are at least 245 voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises and charities which support the rehabilitation of offenders in prisons, and 79 private sector organisations supporting rehabilitation activities in prison.

The National Offender Management Service does not collect any other data on "other organisations" involved with supporting prisoner rehabilitation activities.

In addition there will be other types of support provided to offenders, the details of which are not collated centrally and so any comprehensive lists of organisations and statistical information on the numbers of prisoners undertaking interventions in support of their rehabilitation could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Open Prisons: Crime

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offences were committed by offenders serving a prison sentence in an open prison in the latest period for which figures are available; what the offence was in each case; and in which open prison each such offender was serving. [62917]

Mr Blunt: There are approximately 3,700 incidents reported annually in open prisons and prisons with an open element. These are reported on the HM Prison Service Incident Reporting System. However not all of these relate to a criminal offence; some relate to breaches of prison discipline while other types of incident include those connected with security or self-harm.

In order to provide data relating to the number of criminal offences committed by offenders serving a sentence in an open prison it would be necessary to manually examine each of these 3,700 records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Contracts

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons his Department is considering for market testing; and if he will make a statement. [63036]

Mr Blunt: I will provide the hon. Member with a reply as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Crispin Blunt to Helen Jones:

The Ministry of Justice is currently developing the Offender Services Competition Strategy in line with commitments in the 'Breaking the Cycle' Green Paper and the Ministry of Justice business plan. The strategy will set out how competition will be used within Offender Services and outline a timetable for competition in this period. The strategy will be published later this year.

Prisoners' Release

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the payment by results pilots in reducing the demand for his Department's services. [63058]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice set out plans to design and commission at least six payment by results pilots in the December 2010 Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle'.

The first payment by results pilot was launched in September 2010, the Social Impact Bond at HMP Peterborough. Other pilots have been agreed and will commence shortly. This includes pilot local approaches to reduce demand for criminal justice services in London and Manchester and a pilot at HMP Doncaster that will aim to reduce the reoffending of released offenders. The formal start date of these pilots is due to be July 2011 and October 2011 respectively.

As sufficient offenders have not yet passed through the scheme, it is too early to assess of the effectiveness of the Social Impact Bond in reducing demand for offender services. A report by RAND Europe on the set up of the HMP Peterborough pilot was published last month and an interim report on the first cohort of offenders through the pilot is expected in 2014.

Prisoners: Literacy

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research into the reading ability of prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [63122]

Mr Blunt: There are no current plans to commission research into the reading ability of prisoners.

However, in 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, working closely together with the Ministry of Justice, did commission a scoping study to explore the feasibility of undertaking a survey of prisoners and offenders in the community to examine their literacy and numeracy levels. The study concluded that while it would be possible to measure the skills levels of adult custody and community offenders as well as young offenders in custody, robustly sampling young offenders in the community would be difficult.

Neither the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills nor the Ministry of Justice currently have funding set aside to undertake a basic skills survey of offenders in the current financial year. However, this work will be considered against other policy priorities in future research-planning rounds.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to improve the literacy levels of prisoners. [63123]

Mr Blunt: The MOJ and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills recently published "Making Prisons Work: Skills for Rehabilitation" on 18 May, setting out our reform programme for offender learning. Although our intention is to focus an intensive suite of vocational learning on the period in the run-up to release, we have committed to continuing to meet the literacy and numeracy needs of prisoners at the start of their sentences.

These functional skills are important in enabling prisoners to address other needs that might otherwise prevent them beginning work or training. We are evaluating intensive literacy and numeracy provision and, subject to the outcome of that, plan to extend its use as a means of addressing the needs of those with shorter sentences.

Prisons: Employment

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of prisoners which undertake meaningful work; and in what types of jobs. [63124]

Mr Blunt: Our latest estimate is that about 9,000 prisoners per day currently work in National Offender Management Service public sector prison industries in over 400 workshops, representing a wide range of activities including printing, furniture, textile manufacturing, laundries, engineering, contract services and land based activities.

Prisons also partly run on prison labour. These activities include about 4,400 prisoners working in catering and picking and packing services. In addition significant numbers of prisoners are involved in areas such as cleaning but, as these jobs are local to each prison, numbers are not collated centrally.

Sentencing: Drugs

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence for drugs offences in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Redditch in each of the last five years. [63243]

Mr Blunt: Persons sentenced to immediate custody for all drug offences in selected Local Justice Areas, 2006 to 2010, can be viewed in the table. Please note that local justice areas may include more than one magistrates court.

Number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for all drugs offences, in selected local justice areas[1], 2006-10[2, 3]

Local justice area and Crown court	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[4]*	*2010*
South Worcester LJA	4	5	2	2	2
Bromsgrove and Redditch LJA	1	5	3	1	5
Kidderminster LJA	5	2	2	1	—
Worcester Crown court	59	48	95	81	68

[1] May include more than one magistrates court.
[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received *(a)* immediate custodial sentences and *(b)* other disposals in respect of drugs supply offences in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [63341]

Mr Blunt: Persons sentenced to immediate custody and other sentences for supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug in Hertfordshire police force area, 2006 to 2010, can be viewed in the tables.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody and other sentences for supply and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, in Hertfordshire police force area, 2006-10[1,2,3]

Offence and police force area	*Sentenced*	*2006* *Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*
Hertfordshire			
Supply	83	37	46
Possession with intent to supply	66	41	25
England and Wales			
Supply	3,639	2,366	1,273
Possession with intent to supply	5,044	3,031	2,013

Offence and police force area	*Sentenced*	*2007* *Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*
Hertfordshire			
Supply	61	30	31
Possession with intent to supply	79	29	50
England and Wales			
Supply	3,496	2,215	1,281
Possession with intent to supply	5,514	3,168	2,346

Offence and police force area	*Sentenced*	*2008* *Immediate custody*	*Other sentences*
Hertfordshire			
Supply	76	42	34
Possession with intent to supply	102	53	49
England and Wales			
Supply	3,950	2,538	1,412

Offence and police force area	Sentenced	Immediate custody	Other sentences
		2008	
Possession with intent to supply	6,421	3,693	2,728

Offence and police force area	Sentenced	Immediate custody	Other sentences
		2009[4]	
Hertfordshire			
Supply	80	50	30
Possession with intent to supply	111	55	56
England and Wales			
Supply	3,792	2,453	1,339
Possession with intent to supply	6,394	3,701	2,693

Offence and police force area	Sentenced	Immediate custody	Other sentences
		2010	
Hertfordshire			
Supply	56	21	35
Possession with intent to supply	154	68	86
England and Wales			
Supply	3,798	2,373	1,425
Possession with intent to supply	7,271	3,842	3,429

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Cannabis was re-classified to a class B drug on 26 January 2009.

[4] Revisions have been made to 2009 figures to account for the late receipt of a small number of court records.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: United Nations

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan. [56330]

Mr Hague: Primary responsibility for assessment of the security situation of UN personnel in Afghanistan is with the United Nations. However, the security managers at the British embassy in Kabul routinely share information about security threats with the UN. Additionally we often offer assistance with transportation to UN personnel travelling to Helmand, where the UN has no security staff.

Balkans

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department are working in *(a)* Kosovo and *(b)* the western Balkans. [63542]

Mr Lidington: The following table gives the approximate number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office employees at each post in the western Balkans, including Kosovo, for the fourth quarter of financial year 2010-11. These figures include UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally. They are rounded up to the nearest five.

Albania, Tirana: 30

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo: 35

Croatia, Zagreb: 30

Kosovo, Pristina: 40

Macedonia, Skopje: 30

Montenegro, Podgorica: 10

Serbia, Belgrade: 70.

The following post has five or fewer FCO employees:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Banja Luka.

British Nationals Abroad: Italy

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with its Italian counterpart on the rights of UK citizens teaching in universities in Italy. [63256]

Mr Lidington: The Government continue to take their duty to uphold the principles central to the EU single market very seriously. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised this issue with Italian Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini, in April. I also raised it with Franco Frattini on my visit to Italy last month.

We continue to lobby the Italian Government hard on this issue, at ministerial level and through the British embassy, but the Government's response to date has been that it is the responsibility of the Italian universities to seek a resolution. The Italian universities have said that they cannot resolve this issue without help from the Government.

We will continue to do all that we can to lobby the Italian Government to seek a resolution. While we are unable to get involved in Italian legal proceedings, we are nevertheless fully supportive of the British lecturers' cause.

British Nationals Abroad: Ransom

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 603W, on British nationals abroad: ransom, whether the payment of a ransom which is paid in whole or in part to a proscribed terrorist organisation constitutes an illegal act in UK law. [62226]

Alistair Burt: The payment of a ransom in whole or in part to a proscribed terrorist organisation is an illegal act in UK law. The Terrorism Act (TACT) 2000 provides

criminal penalties for offences relating to fundraising or using or possessing money or other property for the purposes of terrorism (set out in sections 15 to 18 of TACT), including providing money that will be used for the purposes of terrorism. This includes, but is not limited to, any resources of a proscribed organisation. The potential penalties for an individual who is guilty of such an offence are set out in sections 22 to 23 of TACT.

British Overseas Territories: Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the carbon footprint of British Overseas Territories. [59019]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for this issue is devolved to the Governments of the Overseas Territories. However the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change to ensure support to the Overseas Territories, in their efforts to reduce their carbon footprints. Funding from the joint FCO-Department for International Development and Overseas Territories Environment Programme has been used in support of renewable energy initiatives. I raised this issue during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in November last year, to which all the leaders and premiers from the Overseas Territories were invited.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62724]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has not awarded any contracts within the UK to Capita since May 2010.

As budgets in the FCO are devolved to over 260 posts overseas and details of their contracts are not held centrally, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chen Guangcheng

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the treatment of Chen Guangcheng during the visit to the UK of the Prime Minister of China; and if he will make a statement. [R] [63115]

Alistair Burt: During his summit discussions with Premier Wen, the Prime Minister raised his concerns about human rights in China. In doing so he mentioned a number of high profile individual cases. No subjects were off limits.

We remain concerned about the treatment of Chen Guangcheng and his family. We continue to monitor his situation and are working with EU partners to maintain the profile of his case.

China: Diplomatic Service

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of diplomatic staff in China work in *(a)* trade, *(b)* human rights and *(c)* general diplomatic roles. [62117]

Alistair Burt: The following table gives the approximate number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office employees at each post in mainland China and Hong Kong for the fourth quarter of financial year 2010-11. These figures include UK-based civil servants and staff employed locally.

		Approximate number
China	Beijing	190
	Chongqing	35
	Guangzhou	60
	Shanghai	60
	Hong Kong	100

Note: Posts with fewer than 100 staff are rounded up to the nearest 5 and those with 100 or more are rounded up to the nearest 10.

For operational and security reasons, we cannot provide a more detailed breakdown.

China: Family Planning

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he raised the issue of the one child policy during the visit to the UK of the Prime Minister of China; and if he will make a statement. [R] [63116]

Alistair Burt: During his summit discussions with Premier Wen, the Prime Minister raised his concerns about human rights in China. No subjects were off limits.

We do not dispute China's right or need to implement family planning policies but we do believe they should be based on principles of consent and not coercion, and in line with international human rights standards.

My right hon. and noble Friend Baroness Warsi raised China's population policy earlier this year in a meeting with Madame Uyunqimg, vice-chair of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Council of Europe: Finance

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budgets have been set for each institution of the Council of Europe in the next three years; and what contribution will be required from the UK. [62541]

Mr Lidington: Negotiations are ongoing among Council of Europe member states over the budget beyond 2011.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63326]

Mr Lidington: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plans to install a tri-generation heat, cooling and power plant in our headquarters in King Charles street. Gas will be burnt in the plant to generate electricity. The by-product heat will supply both domestic hot water and, via a heat exchanger, cooling to the on-site data-centre.

The FCO also plans to use the solar hot water technology on our new ICT building at Hanslope Park.

Our Wilton Park Executive agency has already installed a biomass boiler, using woodchip biomass from its grounds.

To identify all low carbon energy generation on the overseas estate would entail disproportionate cost. However, a number of overseas Posts have installed solar hot water heaters to supply domestic hot water and some use photovoltaic solar panels to generate electricity.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010; [56178]

(2) how much each executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56074]

Mr Lidington: FCO Services is a Trading Fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). FCO Services provides secure services on a global scale to the FCO, other Government Departments and other international governments and institutions. This involves sending security cleared staff to various locations around the world to work in sensitive and restricted environments. Due to the global nature of the work, the majority of travel spend is on commercial flights. FCO Services spent the following since May 2010 to March 2011:

FCO Services

	£
Private hire	167,685
Trains	286,376
Buses	—
Commercial aircraft	4,449,400
Private aircraft	—
Total	4,903,461

The cost of flights within FCO Services has reduced from approximately £5.6 million in 2008-09. The chief executive of FCO Services spent no money on air, rail or private hire vehicles since May 2010 but claimed £2,168 in mileage expenses.

Wilton Park is a forum for democracy building, post-conflict reconciliation and international dialogue. Between May 2010 and March 2011 Wilton Park spent the following on travel:

Wilton Park

	£
Private hire	3,075
Trains	10,128
Buses	—
Commercial aircraft	12,324
Private aircraft	—
Total	25,527

The chief executive spent £9,608 on travel included in this figure.

Egypt

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the situation in Egypt. [60596]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, is in regular contact with Secretary of State Clinton on a wide range of middle east issues. They met during President Obama's state visit to the UK to discuss developments in the region.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Egyptian Supreme Military Council on the process of transition from military to civilian rule in Egypt. [60597]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs visited Egypt on 2 May and met Field Marshall Tantawi, Head of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. He emphasized the importance of pluralistic parliamentary elections and raised his concerns about the dangers of extremism and sectarianism. He also encouraged reform to create the right environment for investors to return to Egypt. I visited Egypt from 9-11 March to develop the relationship with current and prospective political figures and to offer UK expertise to tackle the challenges of political, economic and security sector reform.

Our embassy is in close contact with the Egyptian authorities, the opposition and activists to support the transition, including through initiatives under the Arab Partnership. These include work with the media on its role in elections, and parliamentary capacity building.

Fair Trials International

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has provided for Fair Trials International in the last five years. [63331]

Alistair Burt: In the last five years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has provided Fair Trials International with funding for two projects (to the value of £6,000 and £15,000). These have been designed to help British nationals in detention abroad access the best possible range of support.

Greece: Asylum

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Greek Government on the condition of detention facilities for asylum seekers in Greece. [62682]

Mr Lidington: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, is not planning to make representations to the Greek Government. The issue of detention centres is sometimes discussed with Greece at EU Justice and Home Affairs Council discussions, most recently in autumn 2010. The UK also raised the issue in its intervention at the UN Human Rights Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Greece in Geneva on 9 May 2011.

The UK participates actively in European Union efforts to assist Greece to strengthen its migration and asylum procedures through the effective implementation of its 'National Action Plan for Migration Management'. This support includes the secondment of UK experts to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to help Greece improve its detention and reception facilities.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the ability of each religious community in Iran to *(a)* exercise its faith, *(b)* to observe its (i) holidays and (ii) weekly day of rest and (c) to administer its internal affairs; and if he will make a statement. [63106]

Alistair Burt: We continue be concerned by the state sponsored persecution of a number of religious minorities in Iran. Although several religions are "protected" in the Iranian constitution, in practice they are still monitored closely and frequently put under pressure because of the way they observe their faith. We are further concerned by the persecution of non-"protected" religions, including the Baha'is, and frequently call on the Iranian authorities to cease all persecution of minorities in Iran.

According to the website of the Iranian Ministry of Labour, religious minorities may not replace Fridays with their weekly day of rest and non-Islamic holidays are not legally counted as state holidays.

Iran: Satellites

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the middle east peace process of the recent launch by Iran of a Rassad-1 satellite; and if he will make a statement. [62006]

Alistair Burt: We have noted the recent space launch under taken by Iran with concern. Much of the technology used in this space launch is similar to that used to develop ballistic missiles. Under UNSCR 1929 Iran is prohibited from undertaking activity relating to ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear payload, and from launches using ballistic missile technology.

We remain concerned that Iran continues to develop missile technology with the clear intention of extending the range of its missiles.

Incidents such as this highlight Israel's very real security needs and only encourage Israel to look inward, instead of engaging on the middle east peace process. We see negotiations towards a two state solution as the best way to meet the national aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians and lead to a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside a safe and secure Israel and their other neighbours in the region.

Libya

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of international intervention in Libya on *(a)* Gaddafi military strength, *(b)* the ability of Libyan rebels to engage and defeat Gaddafi forces and *(c)* safety of civilians; and if he will make a statement. [62862]

Alistair Burt: The goal of the international coalition is to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under threat of attack, in accordance with UNSCR 1973. Action undertaken to date has steadily reduced Gaddafi's ability to launch and sustain attacks on his own people and has prevented a massacre of civilians, particularly in Benghazi. Opposition forces are pushing Gaddafi's forces back and have also been able to protect the cities of Benghazi and Misratah from further attack. Coalition action to implement UNSCR 1973 will continue for as long as attacks against the civilian population of Libya persist.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers of his Department have met Ministerial colleagues in *(a)* the Department for International Development and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence to discuss post-conflict planning in Libya. [63080]

Mr Hague: I regularly meet with my ministerial colleagues including those in the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence to discuss Libya, both bilaterally and in the National Security Council.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials of his Department involved in post-conflict planning in Libya have discussed the task with officials involved in post-conflict planning after the invasion of *(a)* Afghanistan in 2001 and *(b)* Iraq in 2003. [63085]

Mr Hague: The Government place great importance on building on the lessons learned from previous conflicts, including Afghanistan and Iraq. The tri-departmental Stabilisation Unit leads on capturing and disseminating these lessons and has been engaged proactively in cross-Government discussions on stabilisation planning in Libya.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on NATO's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions relating to Libya; and if he will make a statement. [63553]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office regularly receives correspondence from Members of Parliament and members of the public about NATO's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution

(UNSCR) 1973. NATO is implementing the UNSCR effectively, using all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian areas from attack.

Libya: Military Aid

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which other Governments have committed resources to military action in Libya to date; what the nature of these resources are; whether these resources represent *(a)* an ongoing and *(b)* a completed commitment; and if he will make a statement. [63187]

Alistair Burt: 18 nations are contributing aircraft, maritime assets or personnel to the region under UNSCR 1973. They are the US, UK, France, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Norway, Netherlands, Canada, Qatar, Turkey, Greece, U.A.E, Sweden, Jordan, Bulgaria and Romania.

Maldives: Inward Investment

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of the Maldives on promoting inward investment in the Maldives; and if he will make a statement. [63367]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had no recent discussions with the Government of the Maldives on promoting inward investment.

The UK enjoys a strong relationship with the Maldives and the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), met the Maldives high commissioner on 24 May, when he discussed a range of bilateral issues and assistance.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay will receive a substantive response to the letter of 14 April 2011 on the Arms Export Licensing Review. [63861]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office did not receive the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay's letter of 14 April. We have now received an electronic copy from the hon. Member's constituency office and will be replying as soon as possible.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the firing of mortars and Qassam rockets into southern Israel from Gaza on 22 June 2011; and if he will make a statement. [63109]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv monitors rocket attacks on Israel closely. As we have consistently made clear all such attacks should stop. We are aware of one Qassam and one mortar shell fired into Southern Israel, neither caused harm or damage.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has made clear our concerns about the violence in Gaza and southern Israel following a spike in rocket attacks and military strikes in early April 2011. We are pleased that relative calm has returned to Gaza and Southern Israel more recently, but continue to monitor the situation closely.

We have made clear to the Government of Israel that while Israel has every right to protect its people, it is also important that in so doing it also shows restraint and makes every effort to avoid causing civilian casualties.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the outcome of attempts to destroy tunnels used to smuggle weapons into Gaza since March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [63110]

Alistair Burt: We are aware that there have been attempts to destroy the tunnels in Gaza. The UK recognises that Israel has legitimate security concerns that must continue to be safeguarded, and believes efforts to maintain security while enabling movement and access for Palestinian people and goods are critical.

We remain clear that the situation in Gaza is both a tragedy and unsustainable. While there is no humanitarian crisis, there is an enduring need for humanitarian aid. We have also been clear that actions by both Israel and Hamas have contributed to this situation. Working closely with the EU and Quartet, we continue to call on Israel to ease restrictions on access and enable a return to economic normality.

Israel's decision to move from a list of 120 permitted goods to a list of specific prohibited items was a positive step. However there has been no fundamental change in the crossings regime and economic stagnation and de-development in Gaza remain the norm. We are clear that more needs to be done, particularly to enable exports, accelerate key imports for reconstruction and ensure free movement of people. Without economic growth in Gaza, there is a risk of fostering a more broadly radicalised environment. An improved economy and a resurgence of Gaza's pragmatic business fraternity are not only essential for the people of Gaza, but are also firmly in Israel's security interests.

National Security Council

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the membership is of the Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the National Security Council. [63016]

Mr Hague: The membership of the Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the NSC is:

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chair)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Secretary of State for Defence

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

The Secretary of State for International Development

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Minister for Government Policy, Cabinet Office

Minister of State (Mr Browne), Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister of State for Security and Counter-Terrorism, Home Office

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates the Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the National Security Council has met. [63017]

Mr Hague: The Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the NSC has met six times to date. The dates of these meetings were:

1 November 2010
14 December 2010
2 February 2011
27 April 2011
9 May 2011
13 June 2011

Pakistan: China

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between Pakistan and China. [63021]

Mr Hague: China and Pakistan enjoy a strong relationship. Prime Minister Gilani visited China in May to mark the 60th anniversary of Chinese recognition of Pakistan. We understand the two countries agreed further strengthening of the relationship through enhanced economic and trade relations and increased co-operation on energy.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Balochistan. [60139]

Mr Hague: The Government of Pakistan face a difficult law and order situation in Balochistan where it has to tackle diverse militant and criminal threats. 737 attacks, including 614 by nationalist insurgents, were reported across Balochistan in 2010, claiming the lives of over 600 people.

The UK regularly engages with the Government of Pakistan and the provincial government on matters of security, rule of law and human rights in Balochistan. Officials also meet representatives of the Baloch and Pashtun communities and political parties. We continue to press the Government of Pakistan to implement measures designed to address the causes of instability in Balochistan. In particular, the UK would like to see full implementation of the reform package for Balochistan announced by the Government of Pakistan in November 2009.

Saudi Arabia: Religious Freedom

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the ability of each religious community in Saudi Arabia to *(a)* exercise its faith, *(b)* to observe its (i) holidays and (ii) weekly day of rest and *(c)* to administer its internal affairs; and if he will make a statement. [63107]

Alistair Burt: Saudi Arabia is a country in which Islamic law is strictly enforced. The public practice of any form of religion other than Islam is illegal, as is an intention to convert others. The Saudi authorities do, however, accept the private practice of religions other than Islam, and visitors may bring a Bible into the country as long as it is for their personal use. Small private services are tolerated.

The Saudi working week is from Saturday to Wednesday and no provision is made in Saudi Arabia for non-Muslim religious holidays or days of rest. The ability for people to observe them will depend on their employers.

As all other religions are officially not allowed in Saudi Arabia, other religious communities are not able to operate in public, administer joint bank accounts, or interact with the Saudi Government as anything other than individuals.

UK embassies and high commissions have a responsibility to monitor and raise human rights issues in their host countries. Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff routinely raise our concerns with host Governments and where possible they take action on individual cases and push for changes in unfair practices and laws.

Syria: Foreign Relations

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the hon. Member for Braintree and Lord Commissioner of the Treasury was representing the Government at his recent meeting with President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus. [63258]

Alistair Burt: The Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Braintree (Mr Newmark), travelled to Syria in a private capacity where he met President Assad. He told President Assad that international pressure on Syria will only increase if it continues on its current course. Given that only a change of course in Syria will bring about an end to the violence we should welcome contacts that reinforce the need for urgent change.

UN Security Council

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the African Union on UN Security Council Resolution 1973. [63216]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, discussed the situation in Libya at the South Africa Foreign Minister at the bilateral summit on 9 June.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) recently had a series of meetings with African Union Heads of State, Government and Foreign Ministers in the margins of the Summit at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with neighbouring African states the recent statement by Zimbabwean Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba that the military and the ruling party in Zimbabwe are inseparable; and if he will press those states to take further action to assist the population of Zimbabwe. [63550]

Mr Bellingham: Statements such as this are very concerning. For Zimbabwe to make progress and move forward as a democratic country, it is vital that the military stays independent of all political parties and does not interfere in an impartial election process.

However, we do not intend to raise this issue further with regional states at this time. We were encouraged by the communiqué following the recent Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in Sandton, which re-emphasised the importance of free and fair elections under conditions of a level playing field. As guarantor of the Global Political Agreement, SADC has an important role to play in helping Zimbabwe to make progress towards such elections. We will continue to do all we can to support that role.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a carer's allowance in respect of those diagnosed with cancer; and if he will make a statement. [63424]

Maria Miller: Carer's allowance exists for carers who provide regular and substantial care for a severely disabled person. Carers who look after people diagnosed with cancer are eligible to claim carer's allowance if they satisfy the conditions of entitlement for the benefit.

The Government have no plans to change these arrangements.

Child: Maintenance

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has to identify the whereabouts of absent fathers who *(a)* regularly travel to and from the UK, *(b)* have recently been in prison and *(c)* have been granted asylum in the UK. [63076]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has to identify the whereabouts of absent fathers who (a) regularly travel to and from the UK (b) have recently been in prison and (c) have been granted asylum in the UK. [63076]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) has jurisdiction, i.e. legal authority, to make a maintenance calculation and collect child support maintenance only when the parent with care, the non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the United Kingdom (UK). Habitual residence is a legal concept which means more than simply 'where you live'. A person can habitually reside in more than one country or in none. Habitual residence can continue during an absence from the UK.

In instances where we have jurisdiction, the Commission can use its information seeking powers enshrined in child support legislation[1] to identify and trace the non-resident parent. Caseworkers can use a range of tools to trace non-resident parents; For example our Common Enquiry Service enables caseworkers to consider information from Income Support; Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance/Maternity Allowance; Working Families Tax Credits and Job Seekers Allowance systems. If the Caseworker is unable to locate a non-resident parent using the Common Enquiry Service, they will use a system that provides links to credit reference agency data. Caseworkers can also approach the HM Revenue and Customs to request a search on their tax and other databases.

Although, the powers to obtain information to identify and trace a non-resident are now given to the Commission, it is the Child Support Agency (the operating arms of the Commission) that currently exercises them.

Whilst not powers specifically, relating to tracing non-resident parents, the Commission also has further powers to require information to be provided from a range of people or organisations that either have the information in their possession or can reasonably be expected to obtain it. These include powers to require information to be provided from:

The parties to the case, i.e., the parent with care and the non-resident parent;

An alleged parent that has denied parentage of a child;

Employers;

Companies or partnerships;

Accountants;

Court officials;

Crown employees;

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA);

Any Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions;

Local authorities;

Deposit takers—including banks and building societies; and

Gas and electricity providers.

We presently do not have arrangements in place for tracking non-resident parents who travel into and out of the UK.

Where we have evidence that the non-resident parent in question is in prison or has recently been in prison the Commission can make a referral to the Prison Service to access its database to trace the whereabouts of the non-resident parent.

Non-resident parents who have been granted asylum in the UK are considered to be legally resident. The Commission can therefore use its powers to trace and identify them for child maintenance purposes as it does any other non-resident parent.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

[1] Section 4 of the Child Support Act 1991 and regulation 3 (1)a of the Child Support Information Regulations 2008 (SI 2008 No. 2551 refer)

Community Care Grants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation his Department undertook in respect of his proposals on *(a)* community care grants and *(b)* crisis loans. [63210]

Chris Grayling: The December 2010 White Paper 'Universal Credit: welfare that works' set out the Government's reform plans for the Social Fund. In

February 2011 we published a call for evidence, 'Local support to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses', aimed at local authorities, welfare rights organisations and other customer representative groups, and individuals. It focused on how the new service might be delivered in England.

We published a detailed response to the call for evidence on 23 June, which is available in the library and can be accessed on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/local-support-replace-ccg-cl.shtml

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consultation he has undertaken on his proposals for the introduction of a 12-month time limit on entitlement to a single element of employment and support allowance. [63209]

Chris Grayling: Since this measure was announced as part of the spending review in October, both Ministers and officials have met with a number of representatives from organisations representing disabled people, such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Disability Alliance, Citizens Advice, Mind and Scope.

The Department values the views of disability groups and is committed to engaging with organisations such as these on an ongoing basis as part of our wider consultation on the implications of our proposals for welfare reform to ensure that the social security system supports disabled people and those with health conditions in the most sensitive, fair and appropriate way.

Housing Benefit

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether people with large numbers of children are to be considered as having exceptional circumstances in respect of the proposed annual cap on housing benefit payments; [62128]

(2) whether people living in central London are to be considered as having exceptional circumstances in respect of the proposed cap on annual housing benefit payments; [62129]

(3) under which exceptional circumstances he proposes that benefit claimants will be able to receive a payment higher than the annual housing benefit cap. [61950]

Steve Webb: We are introducing a cap on the total amount of benefit a household can claim because we do not believe that it is fair that people can receive more in benefits from the state than hard-working, low-income families.

We have already said that we will exclude from the overall benefit cap:

Households with someone in receipt of working tax credit, increasing the incentive to find employment;

Households which include someone, including a child, receiving disability living allowance or constant attendance allowance, recognising the extra costs they face;

War widows and widowers.

We are looking at ways of easing the transition for families and providing assistance in hard cases and will set out details later in the year. Our aim will be to balance fairness, affordability and work incentives.

Personal Independence Payment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received *(a)* against and *(b)* in favour of the proposed qualifying period for the personal independence payment. [63208]

Maria Miller: Personal independence payment is intended to support people with long-term health conditions or disabilities. A qualifying period of six months helps us achieve this. When taken together with the six month prospective test, the six month qualifying period brings our definition of long-term disability closer in line with that from the Equality Act 2010. As now, people will not always have to wait six months before being paid personal independence payment if some, or all, of the qualifying period has been satisfied by the time they submit their claim.

We have received a number of representations on the proposed qualifying period, in the form of responses to our consultation. Some organisations were in favour of our proposals regarding the qualifying period and the fact that it would align with the definition of long-term disability. Others argued against the proposal on the grounds that some health conditions and impairments, such as cancer, have a sudden onset and individuals incur extra costs very soon after diagnosis. The Government's response to the consultation on disability living allowance reform (Cm 8051) includes some representations from organisations on this issue. The document is available in the House of Commons Library.

My officials and I have met, and continue to meet, disabled people and a large number of disability organisations to discuss our proposals for personal independence payment, including the qualifying period.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to make his Department's consultation on assessment regulations and criteria for the proposed personal independence payment accessible to those who have difficulty reading; and if he will make a statement. [63545]

Maria Miller: We published an initial draft of our proposals for the assessment criteria for personal independence payment on 9 May, in the form of draft regulations and a supporting technical note. We are now carrying out an informal consultation on the criteria, to hear views from disabled people and their organisations on how well the criteria will work and if they can be improved.

Under the Equality Act we are required to make reasonable adjustments to ensure the documents are accessible for all those who would like to read them. We are providing several alternative formats of both these documents, including Braille, audio and large print versions, making them accessible to individuals who have difficulty reading. We are also producing an easy read and British Sign Language versions of the technical note on the criteria, which will be available as soon as possible. We will happily take comments on the draft criteria up until 31 August, four weeks after our original deadline.

To help explain our proposals and seek views on these, my officials have also met with over 30 disability organisations to date, and will be holding two workshops

with over 20 Scottish disability organisations in early July. We will continue to meet with other organisations throughout the summer.

We are also currently testing the initial criteria. Our aim is to publish a further draft of the assessment criteria in the autumn, which builds on the findings from the testing and the feedback from disability organisations.

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he has taken to accommodate demand for face-to-face meetings outside London as part of his Department's consultation on assessment regulations and criteria for the proposed personal independence payment; and if he will make a statement; [63546]

(2) how many face-to-face meetings his Department has undertaken as part of its consultation on proposals for a personal independence payment since the consultation began; and how many of those meetings involved people from Scotland. [63547]

Maria Miller: Throughout the development of the new personal independence payment, which will replace disability living allowance, we have had extensive face to face discussions and consultation with disabled people, their families and organisations representing all parts of the United Kingdom including Scotland. The insight of organisations such as MS Society Scotland, Citizens Advice Scotland, Glasgow Association for Mental Health, Tayside Deaf Forum and the Coalition of Carers in Scotland has been immensely valuable.

We are absolutely committed to developing the detail of the assessment for the benefit in an open and transparent manner. This is why we have published our initial proposals for the criteria on 9 May and why we are consulting informally on them over the summer. We want to hear views from disabled people and their organisations on how well the criteria will work and if they can be improved.

As part of this informal consultation on the draft assessment criteria, my officials have already met with over 30 disability organisations, including a number based outside of London, and will continue to meet with others throughout the summer. They are holding two workshops in early July in Edinburgh which will be attended by over 20 Scottish disability organisations.

Our aim is to publish a further draft of the assessment criteria in the autumn, which builds on the findings from the testing and the feedback from disability organisations.

State Retirement Pensions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving the basic state pension and previously resident abroad have returned to take up permanent residence in the UK in each of the last five years; and how many such people were returning from *(a)* EU countries, *(b)* countries where a reciprocal agreement on pensions is in place and *(c)* countries where the British basic state pension is not indexed in each such year. [63205]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many women in Leicester South constituency, born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954, will be required to wait an additional 18 months to claim a state pension under his plans to accelerate the change in the state pension age; [63636]

(2) how many women from Leicester South constituency, born between 6 March 1954 and 5 April 1954, will be required to wait an additional two years before claiming a state pension under his plans to accelerate the change in the state pension age. [63635]

Steve Webb: We estimate that in Leicester South constituency there are approximately 387 women born between 6 December 1953 and 5 October 1954, who will have an increase in state pension age of 18 months or more. Of these approximately 42 women, born between 6 March 1954 and 5 April 1954, will have an increase in their state pension age of two years.

Universal Credit

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department plans to provide for advice on benefits during the transitional period to universal credit; and if he will make a statement. [63211]

Chris Grayling: We understand the vital importance of keeping claimants informed about how the benefits system is changing during the transition process, and are currently considering options for fulfilling that need.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that people who suffer a serious accident are not disadvantaged under his Department's proposals for the introduction of a universal credit. [63212]

Chris Grayling: Where a claimant is assessed as having limited capability for work, perhaps through a serious accident, the calculation of universal credit will include an additional element equivalent to the work-related activity component in employment and support allowance. Where a claimant is assessed as having limited capability for work-related activity as well as limited capability for work, there will be an element that is higher than the support component currently paid to this group in employment and support allowance.

Working Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support he plans to provide to couples who do not work for an additional eight hours but who wish to remain in work after the implementation of the increase in the working hours qualification for couples with children to claim working tax credit. [63009]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Under the current tax credits system, couples with children can claim the working tax credit, if one partner works 16 hours. Lone parents must work at least 16 hours to qualify for the working tax credit. This change makes the system fairer by reducing the disparity in the number of hours which lone parents and couples are obliged to work.

The changes to tax credits need to be considered within the wider context of other changes which the Government have introduced to help low income working families, such as the increase in the level of the personal allowance and the above-indexation increases to the child tax credit.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the average amount of *(a)* working tax credit and *(b)* child tax credit that will no longer be paid to couples who do not work sufficient additional hours to claim working tax credit when the working hours qualification increases from 16 to 24 hours; [63029]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of couples who will be affected by the increase in the working hours qualification for couples with children claiming working tax credit; [63030]

(3) how many households where one adult is disabled will be affected by the increase in the working hours qualification for couples with children claiming working tax credit. [63043]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The measures referred to in these questions are part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the number of households impacted by an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the packages of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his most recent estimate is of the number of unregistered voters in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each region of the UK. [63432]

Mr Harper: The Government do not hold this information. The Electoral Commission's March 2010 report on the "Completeness and Accuracy of Electoral Registers in Great Britain" makes clear that the process of estimating registration rates is an

"imprecise science"

and says that

"all current approaches to estimating the completeness and accuracy of the electoral registers at a national level are imperfect".

However, the Cabinet Office is funding the Electoral Commission to carry out research to provide a robust national measure of completeness and accuracy of the registers. The research will also provide some data on different demographic breakdowns. The study will report towards the end of 2011.

The Commission will be conducting further research which will check the registers against the census, and this will provide data on detailed demographic breakdowns. This study is expected to report in 2013.

Electoral Systems

Meg Munn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to improve the administration of elections for the purposes of ensuring consistency in the provision of services to voters. [63834]

Mr Harper: All those involved in the administration of elections should provide a service that puts the elector first. The legislation governing the administration of elections and the Electoral Commission's accompanying guidance provide a platform from which Returning Officers can provide services to electors in a consistent manner. There can also be local factors that affect how elections are delivered and allowing some discretion to Returning Officers can be beneficial. We will continue to consider the arrangements for the delivery of elections to support voters' experience at the polls.

Falkland Islands

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he had any discussions on the Falkland Islands during his recent visit to Brazil. [63260]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I discussed the Falkland Islands with Brazilian Foreign Minister Patriota in the course of wide-ranging talks. I made clear the British Government's longstanding and deeply held view that we have no doubts about our sovereignty over the Islands and that the Falkland Islanders' right to determine their own political future is paramount.

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 428W, on voting rights: prisoners, whether he plans to inform the House of Commons of his policy on the legislative measures he plans to introduce on extending the franchise to prisoners prior to providing an update to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. [62931]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and the House will be the first to be informed when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many prisoners he expects will be enfranchised under his proposals for prisoner voting. [63696]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Voting Rights: Young people

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his policy is on Resolution 1826 (2011) of the Parliamentary Assembly for the Council of Europe on the expansion of democracy by lowering the voting age to 16. [62915]

Mr Harper: The Government have no current plans to lower the voting age, but will keep the issue under review.

DEFENCE

Christmas Island

20. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has evaluated on the effect on those present of the nuclear tests on Christmas Island. [63153]

Mr Robathan: We closely monitor and evaluate any research undertaken world wide relating to nuclear test veterans.

In response to potential health concerns raised by former service personnel in the UK, the Ministry of Defence commissioned the National Radiological Protection Board to study mortality and cancer incidence in nuclear test participants and compare it with service personnel who did not deploy, and the general population.

The last of three studies, completed in 2003, concluded that overall levels of mortality and cancer incidence in nuclear test veterans have continued to be similar to those in a matched control group. Overall, mortality rates are lower than expected compared to the national average.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

21. **Dan Jarvis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to publish the outcomes of his Department's arrangements for continuous review of the strategic defence and security review. [63154]

Dr Fox: Progress against the commitments made in the SDSR is set out in the monthly updates on the MOD's business plan, which are published on the MOD's website.

Defence Exports

22. **Nadine Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to promote defence exports. [63155]

Mr Gerald Howarth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to my hon. Friend the Member for Filton and Bradley Stoke (Jack Lopresti) and my hon. Friend the Member for Kingswood (Chris Skidmore).

Middle East and North Africa

23. **Mike Freer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the middle east and north Africa; and if he will make a statement. [63156]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Redditch (Karen Lumley), the hon. Member for Wolverhampton South West (Paul Uppal), and the hon. Member for Harlow (Robert Halfon).

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had on plans to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. [63377]

Dr Fox: We routinely review UK force levels in Afghanistan and this is something that I regularly discuss with my National Security Council colleagues and military advisers.

Future reductions in British forces will take into account the conditions on the ground, the advice of military commanders and be fully discussed at the National Security Council.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel changed residence as a result of service deployment in each of the last three years. [63355]

Mr Robathan: The number of service personnel who have moved in and out of service family accommodation in the UK in each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

Calendar year	*Move ins*	*Move outs*
2009	21,313	20,618
2010	21,344	20,297
2011 (to date)	9,097	9,124

Centrally maintained records do not allow us to differentiate between moves occurring as a result of an official service posting notice, at an individual's request, or through discharge from the services. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. It is assumed, however, that the majority of moves will be related to postings.

Moves in and out of private homes are not recorded by the Department.

Data relating to single living accommodation are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish his Department's guidance issued to recipients of the continuity education allowance on usage of the allowance. [63357]

Mr Robathan: The guidance on the continuity of education allowance is provided in the Joint Service Publication 752 "Tri-Service Regulations for Allowances" which is published on the Defence intranet and is already widely available to the armed forces community. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of people who will be employed by his Department's Defence Infrastructure Organisation in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales in 2014. [63069]

Mr Robathan: Further to the announcements following the strategic defence and security review, it is currently not possible to identify the precise future location and numbers of people that will be employed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in 2014.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62486]

Mr Robathan: In the period May 2010 to May 2011, the volumes paid by the Ministry of Defence in respect of UK invoices, and the monetary values of invoices not paid within 30 days, are as detailed in the following table.

MOD—All UK invoices

Period	*Volume paid within 30 days*	*Volume not paid within 30 days*	*Value not paid within 30 days (£)*
2010			
May	370,880	637	5,779,921
June	367,855	1,912	11,440,721
July	398,474	1,117	20,389,483
August	367,463	1,799	8,304,861
September	344,140	1,806	28,239,978
October	349,640	1,649	19,108,352
November	370,701	2,562	6,050,466
December	329,290	2,520	10,384,534
2011			
January	307,926	1,206	9,410,981
February	364,158	2,222	22,468,243
March	404,811	1,300	12,576,213
April	359,314	514	3,304,904
May	370,316	592	9,229,080

Ministerial Posts

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department requires two Permanent Under-Secretaries. [62298]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Defence published Lord Levene's report into the structure and management of the Ministry of Defence on 27 June, and endorsed its recommendations. Those recommendations reduce the number of senior military and civilian posts in the Department. However, Lord Levene recommended retaining the Second Permanent Secretary post—and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff post—on the basis that, without them, the loading and span of control on the Permanent Secretary and the Chief of the Defence Staff would be unsustainable. Recognising the amount of change the Department will be embarking on, Lord Levene also recommended that we take stock of progress after about two years and consider whether the proposed structure and role of the Head Office, including the requirement, role and seniority of both the Second Permanent Secretary and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff remain valid.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of near cash spending levels for *(a)* Navy Command, *(b)* Land Forces, *(c)* Air Command, *(d)* Defence Estates and *(e)* Defence Equipment and Support in each of the next four financial years. [63071]

Dr Fox: The planned spending levels for Navy Command, Land Forces, Air Command, Defence Estates and Defence Equipment and Support in each of the next three financial years are provided in the following table. Figures have not been provided for 2015-16 as this falls outside the current spending review settlement.

The Department will review planned spending for the period in question and beyond as part of its routine planning round 12 process. This will take into account the outcome of a range of work under way, including the three-month exercise.

Total departmental expenditure limit

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*£ million 2014-15*
Navy Command	2,166	2,106	2,060
Land Forces	6,587	6,588	6,670
Air Command	2,559	2,450	2,440
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	3,552	3,208	3,005
Defence Equipment and Support Operating Budget	1,166	1,085	1,035

Note:
The figures in the table do not include planned spend on equipment procurement and equipment support. These costs are normally assigned in the annual report and accounts to the Defence Equipment and Support top level budget.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings he expects each top level budget holder in his Department to make in each of the next four financial years. [63072]

Dr Fox: As I made clear in the statement I made on 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 634-36, on the report by Lord Levene, I am committed to achieving further efficiencies in the Ministry of Defence through a range of measures. Top level budget holders have not been allocated specific efficiency targets but they will be responsible for delivering many of these measures, which will realise significant efficiency savings across the spending review period.

Staff are asked to avoid travelling where the business need can be met in other ways, such as by e-mail and video conferencing. This both saves cost and increases the productivity of staff by reducing time spent travelling. Where travelling is unavoidable, staff must do so in a way that is most economical in both money and official time.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on travel in respect of *(a)* each of his Department's Executive agencies and *(b)* the chief executive of each such agency since May 2010. [56175]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Defence's Executive agencies on travel and subsistence since May 2010 is shown in the following table. The figures cover expenditure on air travel, rail travel, car rental, use of a private vehicle on official duty, public transport fares, overnight accommodation, subsistence and travel-related costs such as parking charges and road tolls.

Agency	*Agency headcount (March 2011)*	*Total travel and subsistence expenditure (£)*	*Travel and subsistence by the chief executive (£)*
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3,780	7,125,321	17,067
Defence Support Group	3,010	2,325,000	[1]33,000
Defence Vetting Agency	420	534,928	7,908
Met Office	1,860	3,557,807	[2]9,626
MOD Police and Guarding Agency[3]	7,320	944,169	2,443
People, Pay and Pensions Agency	880	341,700	[4]6,773
Service Children's Education	1,120	1,556,018	[5]16,406
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	960	819,603	11,831
UK Hydrographic Office	1,000	1,514,000	[6]69,000

[1] DSG chief executive's expenses reflect the cost of travelling between 14 DSG sites across the UK.
[2] The figure disclosed also covers travel and subsistence incurred as the UK representative to the World Meteorological Organisation and other international bodies.
[3] Figures are for financial year 2010-11.
[4] The chief executive of PPPA's travel costs also relates to his other Defence business services and next generation human resources responsibilities.
[5] The chief executive is also the director for Children and Young People. The figure disclosed covers both roles.
[6] The chief executive of UK Hydrographic Office's costs also relate to his involvement with international hydrographic bodies.

Departmental Travel

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much each Executive agency of his Department has spent on travel by *(a)* private hire vehicles, *(b)* trains, *(c)* buses, *(d)* commercial aircraft and *(e)* private aircraft since May 2010. [56077]

Mr Robathan: Information on travel expenditure in the categories requested is shown in the following table. The figures represent the cost incurred between 1 May 2010 and 30 April 2011 unless otherwise stated.

Agency	*Agency headcount (March 2011)*	*Private hire vehicles*	*Trains*	*Buses*	*Commercial aircraft*	*Private aircraft*
		£				
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3,780	1,874,488	902,857	159,596	2,814,234	0
Defence Support Group	3,010	915,000	26,000	[1]—	226,000	0
Defence Vetting Agency	420	14,400	26,183	[1]—	7,092	0
Met Office	1,860	315,948	485,838	[1]—	591,733	0
MOD Police and Guarding Agency[2]	7,320	662,288	107,784	[1]—	174,096	0
People, Pay and Pensions Agency	880	57,574	67,494	[1]—	17,719	0
Service Children's Education	1,120	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	960	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
UK Hydrographic Office	1,000	102,000	73,000	0	955,000	0

[1] Not separately identifiable.
[2] Period covered is financial year 2010-11 (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011).

The level of expenses incurred by individual agencies and chief executives is mainly influenced by the nature of their role, for example, the scale of their international commitments.

Ex-servicemen

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to increase the monitoring of the welfare of veterans. [63145]

Mr Robathan: The welfare of veterans is the responsibility of Government as a whole and therefore many Departments are involved in its monitoring. The Armed Forces Covenant stresses the importance we place on ensuring that veterans are not disadvantaged as a result of their service in the armed forces. The proposed annual report to Parliament will highlight the progress that has been made and where there is scope for improvement.

Joint Force Command

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 634-44, on defence reform, whether he has made an estimate of the number of injured service personnel who would be employed in the Joint Force Command; what roles such personnel would perform; and if he will make a statement. [63125]

Mr Robathan: All three services retain injured personnel, if they wish to stay, for as long as it is judged to be in the interest of the individual and the service. It is too early to estimate how many injured service personnel might be employed in Joint Force Command or what they might do.

NATO: Armed Forces

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British servicemen and women of each rank and duty are on secondment to NATO. [61944]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The following table shows the total by rank of all the UK-assigned posts within NATO's peacetime command structure and the complementary force structure. This includes inter alia multinational high-readiness force headquarters located overseas, centres of excellence, and similar organisations as well as UK personnel attached to NATO agencies. The figures exclude operational deployments, and the short-term augmentation of NATO structures, which are not normally recognised as secondments. The figures reflect contributions from all three services but for the sake of simplicity are expressed using Army rank equivalents.

Organisation	*NATO rank*	*Army rank equivalent*	*Total*
NATO force structure, agencies and other appointments	OF-7	Major-General	2
	OF-6	Brigadier	3
	OF-5	Colonel	13
	OF-4	Lieutenant-Colonel	46
	OF-3	Major	26
	OF-2	Captain	5
	OR-9	Warrant Officer Class 1	2
	OR-8	Warrant Officer Class 2	7
	OR-7	Staff Sergeant	6
	OR-6	Sergeant	13
	OR-4	Corporal	2
	OR-3	Lance-Corporal	4
	OR-2	Private	1
Sub-total			130
NATO command structure	OF-9	General	1
	OF-8	Lieutenant-General	4
	OF-7	Major-General	7
	OF-6	Brigadier	4
	OF-5	Colonel	31
	OF-4	Lieutenant-Colonel	186
	OF-3	Major	134
	OF-2	Captain	44
	OR-9	Warrant Officer Class 1	33
	OR-8	Warrant Officer Class 2	38
	OR-7	Staff Sergeant	110
	OR-6	Sergeant	193
	OR-4	Corporal	81
	OR-3	Lance Corporal	10
	OR-2	Private	7
Sub-total			883
Total			1,013

Nuclear Submarines

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the number of warheads deployed on each Vanguard class submarine will be reduced to no more than 40; when the stockpile of operationally available warheads will be reduced to no more than 120; and when warheads which have been removed from the operation stockpile will be dismantled. [20822]

Dr Fox: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Liam Fox to Caroline Lucas:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Question on 20 December 2010 (Official Report, column 992W) about the timescales for the reduction in the number of operationally available warheads and their eventual dismantlement.

I apologise for the delay in responding but it was necessary to undertake some work to implement the first stage of this process before I was in a position to respond to your question. In addition, can I draw your attention to the Statement I made on 29 June 2011 (Official Report, column 51 WS).

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) announced a reduction in the scale of the UK nuclear deterrent. The programme to implement the reductions in the number of deployed warheads has now commenced on our fleet of VANGUARD class ballistic missile submarines. On current estimates, the reduction in operationally available warheads will be completed within this Parliament. Our expectation is that the programme for dismantling warheads removed from the operational stockpile will be completed within the timeframe set by the SDSR of the mid 2020s.

Nuclear Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the logistics plan for implementing the reduction in nuclear weapons numbers announced in the strategic defence and security review to be completed; when it is intended to commence the return of warheads to the Atomic Weapons Establishment for decommissioning; and when the reduction in stockpile size will be complete. [47825]

Dr Fox: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Liam Fox to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Question on 23 March 2011 (Official Report, column 1125W) about the timescales for the reduction in the number of operationally available warheads and their eventual dismantlement.

I apologise for the delay in responding but it was necessary to undertake some work to implement the first stage of this process before I was in a position to respond to your question. In addition, can I draw your attention to the Statement I made on 29 June 2011 (Official Report, column 51 WS).

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) announced a reduction in the scale of the UK nuclear deterrent. The programme to implement the reductions in the number of deployed warheads has now commenced on our fleet of VANGUARD class ballistic missile submarines. On current estimates, the reduction in operationally available warheads will be completed within this Parliament. Our expectation is that the programme for dismantling warheads removed from the operational stockpile will be completed within the timeframe set by the SDSR of the mid 2020s.

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alternatives his Department has considered to the nuclear deterrent. [60386]

Dr Fox: Prior to the publication of the 2006 White Paper, The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994), Ministry of Defence officials undertook a full review of the widest possible range of options to replace the UK's nuclear deterrent capability. A detailed assessment process to narrow the range of options under consideration to the four generic options reported in the White Paper was then used.

The parliamentary debate on 14 March 2007, *Official Report,* columns 298-407, subsequently endorsed the conclusions made in the White Paper that the most cost-effective deterrent system was a further class of submarines carrying ballistic missiles.

To support the agreement made in the Coalition programme for Government, that the Lib Dems will continue to make the case for alternatives, work is under way in the Cabinet Office to explore the costs, feasibility and credibility of alternative systems. This work will report to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in approximately 18 months time.

UN Security Council

George Freeman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under which budget headings expenditure to date on enforcing UN Security Council Resolution 1973 has fallen; what estimate he has made of the future cost of military action; and if he will make a statement. [62870]

Dr Fox: The budget headings against which the net additional costs for Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—have been assigned to date are:

Personnel

Infrastructure

Inventory/Other Consumption

Equipment Support Costs

Other Costs

Depreciation

Fiscal Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit (CDEL).

The current estimate of the net additional costs of military operations for six months in support of Operation Ellamy is in the region of £120 million. This excludes costs associated with capital munitions expended.

Based upon current consumption rates we estimate the cost of replenishing munitions may be up to £140 million.

The Treasury has agreed to meet these costs from the Reserve.

War Pensions: Tribunals

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* solicitors, *(b)* barristers, *(c)* experts and *(d)* other costs in respect of ionising appeals heard at the war pensions tribunals. [63692]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Thomas Docherty) on 2 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 998W. Up-to-date figures are currently being compiled and I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to support alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres; and if he will make a statement. [63376]

Anne Milton: In the Government's drug strategy, which we published in December 2010, we highlighted the need for local areas to build close links between residential rehabilitation and other services when commissioning support to help people recover from dependence on drugs and alcohol. In a series of initiatives funded by the Department, the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) has:

allocated over £65 million since 2007-08 for capital projects to improve the provision of rehabilitation facilities;

launched Rehab Online, a web-based directory of residential services in 2010; and

held a series of regional events in 2011 to raise the profile of such services.

Later this year, the NTA will be responding to the consultation on 'Building Recovery in Communities' by publishing updated advice on models of care for people dependent on drugs and alcohol.

We are working with eight pilot sites to explore a payment by results scheme which will reward recovery from dependency and which will give good services a chance to demonstrate their capabilities.

Cord Blood

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to encourage mothers to donate stem cell blood from umbilical cords after childbirth; [63406]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of increasing the number of NHS hospitals where stem cell blood from umbilical cords can be collected as part of the cord blood bank. [63407]

Anne Milton: On 1 December 2010, the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum, led by NHS Blood and Transplant produced a report, "The Future of Unrelated Donor Stem Cell Transplantation in the UK" (copies of which have already been placed in the Library). The report contained 20 recommendations to improve the provision and use of unrelated stem cells. The Department has allocated an additional £4 million in this financial year to begin the implementation of the report's recommendations.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63319]

Mr Simon Burns: We currently have no immediate plans to generate low-carbon energy from the Department's estate. However the position will be kept under review.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62993]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars is published annually by written ministerial statement, details of which have already been placed in the Library. This information can also be found at:

2005-06:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10:

www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and are due for release in July 2011.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is set out in the following table.

Month and year	*Number of journeys*
2010	
September	67
October	75
November	105
December	69
2011	
January	83
February	71
March	122
Total	592

Ministers are committed to using other forms of transport where practical, including public transport, while travelling on official Government business. In line with the new Ministerial Code, all Ministers at the Department have given up their allocated cars and drivers.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the attendance by advocates or family members at strategy meetings for patients with severe learning disabilities. [63010]

Paul Burstow: It is Government policy that the public sector should work closely with family members, carers and advocates of people with severe learning disabilities. However, this policy does not prescribe which meetings they can and should attend which is a matter of professional judgement and of negotiation with the family and the advocates.

Maternity Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to the NHS on the *(a)* establishment, *(b)* role and remit and *(c)* relationship with existing neonatal networks of new maternity networks. [63074]

Anne Milton: In the White Paper "Excellence and Equity: Liberating the NHS" we made a commitment to extend maternity choice through maternity provider networks. We want provider networks to cover all the maternity services a mother may need throughout pregnancy, birth and post-natally, including arrangements to access services that may not be available locally, ensuring that the transitions between individual carers or organisations are as seamless as possible.

In its report "Clinical advice and leadership", 13 June, the NHS Future Forum recommended embedding networks at all levels of the new system with further work to define them and review their range, function and effectiveness. In the "Government response to the NHS Future Forum report", 20 June, we agreed to retain and strengthen existing networks so that they cover many more areas of specialist care, and to give them a stronger role in commissioning in support of the NHS Commissioning Board and local clinical commissioning groups.

Networks may look different in different geographical areas as they seek to meet local needs and circumstances. It will be for the providers to agree network arrangements, including links with neonatal networks, and any support or management structures that they might want to adopt, and to identify how these could be resourced including any efficiency gains that might cover the costs.

Mental Health Services

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the performance of emergency outreach teams for mental health based at *(a)* Fulbourn hospital and *(b)* other hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [63008]

Paul Burstow: It is not the role of the Department to assess the performance of individual clinical teams. This is a matter for local commissioners. However, nationally, Crisis Resolution Home Treatment teams, which deal with patients in need of urgent care, carried out 131,452 home treatments in 2010-11 and 127, 396 home treatments in 2009-10.

NHS: Pay

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the average hourly cost of employing a member of staff in the NHS. [62823]

Mr Simon Burns: Comprehensive validated data to make this estimate are not held centrally.

However, an estimate can be provided of the average paybill cost per full-time equivalent (FTE) member of staff in the Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) NHS work force. This does not include general practitioners or their practice staff.

In 2009-10, the estimated average paybill per FTE member of staff in the HCHS work force was £39,000. This is the latest estimate available.

This includes basic pay, additional earnings such as geographical allowances and payments for additional hours worked, employer national insurance contributions and employer pension contributions.

Standard full-time hours are 40 hours per week for medical staff and 37.5 hours per week for non-medical staff on Agenda for Change contracts but, as the estimated paybill per FTE includes payments for additional hours worked, using these standard contract hours to convert the estimate provided into a value per hour would lead to an overestimate.

Ophthalmology

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to review the regulatory framework relating to premises used by opticians and optometrists and their equipment and facilities. [63195]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no plans to review the regulatory framework requiring contractors to have suitable practice premises, equipment and facilities to enable them to provide national health service sight tests.

Currently NHS primary care trusts hold contracts with providers of NHS sight tests. In future, we propose that the NHS Commissioning Board will hold contracts for the NHS sight testing service and we anticipate the requirement for suitable premises, equipment and facilities will remain.

Organs: Donors

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of people *(a)* in South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency and *(b)* nationally are on the NHS organ donor register. [62843]

Anne Milton: As at 20 June 2011, 18,072 million people (29% of the United Kingdom population) are currently on the organ donor register, of whom 25,445 are from the South Basildon and East Thurrock area.

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency were assessed as needing an organ transplant in each of the last five years. [62865]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is provided in the following table:

South Basildon and East Thurrock solid organ transplant statistics, by financial year

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Number on waiting list at the start of the year	12	11	8	8	7	7
New recipient registrations	4	3	8	4	4	—

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency died while waiting for an organ transplant in each of the last five years. [62866]

Anne Milton: The information is provided in the following table.

South Basildon and East Thurrock solid organ transplant statistics, by financial year

	Died on the list[1]
2006-07	1
2007-08	1
2008-09	1
2009-10	1
2010-11	2
2011-12	—

[1] All that died were adults (aged 18 or older).
Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Stephen Metcalfe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which schools in South Basildon and East Thurrock constituency use NHS Blood and Transplant's Give and Let Live educational resource on organ donation. [62867]

Anne Milton: Three schools in the South Basildon and East Thurrock area have requested the Give and Let Live pack. These are:

Hassenbrook School;

Gable Hall School; and

Basildon Upper Academy.

Prescription Drugs

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for each *(a)* benzodiazepine and *(b)* z-drug tranquilliser in 2010-11. [62809]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of prescription items dispensed, for the latest available 12 month period, is shown in the following tables. Data for the first quarter of 2011 are not currently available, therefore figures quoted are for the calendar year 2010.

Table 1: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, classified as hypnotics and anxiolytics in British National Formulary (BNF) Section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2

BNF chemical name	Prescription items (thousand)
Alprazolam	[1]—
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	213.9
Diazepam	5,148.4
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	[1]—
Loprazolam Mesilate	88.6
Lorazepam	968.3
Lormetazepam	60.5
Nitrazepam	1,035.2
Oxazepam	164.8
Temazepam	2,814.0
Total for BNF Section 4.1	10,493.7

[1] Less than 50 prescription items dispensed.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Table 2: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, classified as antiepileptic drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.8.1

BNF chemical name	Prescriptions items (thousand)
Clobazam	185.8
Clonazepam	629.1
Midazolam	39.1
Midazolam Hydrochloride [1]	0.3
Total for BNF Section 4.8	854.3

[1] Oromucosal Hydrochloride pre-filled syringes—a new classification from the second quarter of 2010.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Table 3: Number of benzodiazepine prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, classified as anaesthesia drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 15.1.4

BNF chemical name	Prescription items (thousand)
Midazolam Hydrochloride	83.1
Total for BNF Section 15.1	83.1

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Table 4. Number of "Z-drugs" prescription items written in the UK and dispensed in the community in England in the year 2010, classified as Antidepressant drugs in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.1

BNF Chemical name	Number of items (thousand)
Zaleplon	9.4
Zolpidem Tartrate	733.0
Zopiclone	5,295.8
Total for "Z-drugs"	6,038.2

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Prescription Drugs: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason *(a)* patient groups and *(b)* charitable and not-for-profit groups were not consulted as part of the recent reviews by the National Addiction Centre and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse on addiction to prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medicines. [63676]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 780W.

Radiotherapy

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2007 National Radiotherapy Advisory Group report in respect of *(a)* equality of access to treatment and *(b)* maximum travel times for cancer patients to receive radiotherapy treatment. [63263]

Paul Burstow: The National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) report, "Radiotherapy: developing a world class service for England", published in 2007, recommended that, in order to improve equality of access to treatment, there would need to be additional investment in staff and equipment and better use made of existing capacity. The NRAG report also recommended that, where possible, patients should not travel more than 45 minutes for radiotherapy treatment.

We know that, whilst radiotherapy capacity has increased, demand has not increased at the rate previously predicted, and that there remain variations in activity across the country. "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out our commitment to improve equality of access

to radiotherapy by investing over £150 million in additional funding over the next four years. This will support increased utilisation of existing equipment, establish new services to increase capacity in some areas and ensure that all high priority patients with a need for proton beam therapy treatment get access to it abroad.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2011-12" states that the national health service is expected to implement the new cancer strategy and that commissioners should develop plans to ensure that local populations have appropriate access to radiotherapy treatment.

Respite Care: Finance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 252W, on carers: Hertfordshire, whether his Department monitors expenditure from carers' budgets to ensure that funding provided for respite breaks is spent for that purpose; and if he will make a statement. [63004]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not formally monitor expenditure on respite breaks for carers.

However, the '2011-12 NHS Operating Framework', published on 15 December 2010, makes it clear that:

"PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. For 2011/12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people."

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) will remain accountable for operational delivery and for leading the transition across their region in 2011-12. They will hold primary care trusts (PCTs) to account for the delivery of the requirements set out in the NHS Operating Framework both in terms of service delivery and transition to the new arrangements.

In order to support transparency and local accountability, the Department plans to seek written confirmation from all SHAs when plans have been published by PCTs on the specific areas outlined as a requirement in the Operating Framework, including services to support carers.

Social Services

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many local authorities have *(a)* changed and *(b)* given notice of a change to eligibility criteria for social care in the last six months; [62798]

(2) what steps his Department takes to monitor changes to local authority social care eligibility criteria. [62799]

Paul Burstow: There has been no change in the Department's long standing position that it does not formally monitor changes to local authority social care eligibility criteria. Allocations of resources at a local level is the responsibility of local authorities who are best placed to understand the needs of their community.

Councils should use the framework set out in the guidance 'Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care', to draw up local eligibility criteria. This is graded into four bands—critical; substantial; moderate and low. A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

On 11 May 2011, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services published a survey that indicated that 13% (19) councils had changed their eligibility criteria between 2010-11 and 2011-12. According to the survey, there are now 78% (116) councils at substantial, 15% (22) at moderate, 3% (four) at low and 4% (six) at critical.

Social Services: Finance

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department takes to monitor whether the expenditure of funding allocated to local authorities for social care in 2011-12 *(a)* has been and *(b)* is to be spent on social care services; and if he will make a statement; [63103]

(2) how much funding the NHS *(a)* provided for social care in 2010-11 and *(b)* plans to provide for social care in 2011-12; and what steps his Department plans to take to monitor whether such funding is spent as intended; [63104]

(3) how much of the funding for social care announced in the comprehensive spending review has been allocated to each local authority in England; and how much funding so allocated *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is intended to be spent on social care provision. [63105]

Paul Burstow: The additional funding for social care has been allocated in two distinct ways, through formula grant to local authorities and from the national health service to local authorities.

In 2011-12, an additional £530 million was allocated to local government in addition to existing departmental grants for social care. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding was allocated to local authorities through the local government formula grant. Formula grant is not hypothecated for different services and it is therefore not possible to determine how much of the additional funding through local government has been allocated for social care. However, we do receive local authorities' budgeted spend on adult social care through the revenue accounts data returns in June of each year. These data are publicly available.

In addition to funding through formula grant, the Government provided a specific allocation of £648 million to primary care trusts (PCTs) for 2011-12 for measures that support social care, which also benefit health. As part of our planning and assurance processes for 2011-12, we are holding strategic health authorities (SHA) to account for ensuring that arrangements are in place between local authorities and PCTs for the funding to be transferred and objectives for the investment agreed.

Local authorities (LAs) and the NHS have been working together to agree how this funding should be best used to support social care services. NHS planning assurance showed that all SHAs had confirmed there were local plans in place to agree the transfer. We will continue to get information on the progress of the money as the NHS financial reporting year progresses.

In addition to this funding, the Government allocated £150 million to PCTs in 2011-12 to develop local re-ablement services in the context of the post-discharge support plans submitted to SHAs last December. It is for PCTs and LAs locally to agree the plans for this funding.

In 2010-11, by making efficiency savings to central programmes, the Department made available an extra £162 million to local health and care services to spend in 2010-11 on front-line services. In addition, £70 million was made available for re-ablement services in 2010-11.

The breakdown of the £162 million 2010-11 and £648 million 2011-12 allocations to PCTs for social care can be found in the Library.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients *(a)* completed and *(b)* were unable to complete due to unavailability of drugs treatment for drug (i) susceptible and (ii) resistant tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [63295]

Anne Milton: The information is not available in the format requested. The latest available information on treatment completion for tuberculosis (TB), as collated by the Health Protection Agency, is shown in the following table.

Number and proportion of TB cases completing treatment within 12 months, United Kingdom 2004-08

		Completed treatment	
	Cases reported	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004	6,903	5,464	79.2
2005	7,566	5,976	79.0
2006	7,917	6,266	79.1
2007	8,068	6,524	80.9
2008	8,152	6,618	81.2

Notes:
1. TB surveillance data are currently available up to 2009. Because treatment outcomes are obtained 12 months after start of treatment, these are only currently available up to 2008.
2. Reasons for non-completion of treatment may include, for example, continuing treatment, the death of the patient (which is not necessarily related to TB) and loss to follow-up (including patients who have moved abroad).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 123W, on departmental carbon emissions, when he plans to explore the feasibility of generating low carbon energy on his departmental estate. [63420]

Gregory Barker: We are planning to explore the feasibility of generating low carbon energy from the DECC estate in the course of this financial year.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to the merits of including lighting and appliances in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. [64010]

Gregory Barker: A wide range of products and appliances have historically been eligible for delivery under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). These include lighting measures such as CFLs and LED lighting; consumer electronics, such as some televisions and radios; domestic appliances, such as some fridges, microwaves and dishwashers; and other energy efficient products, such as shower regulators and real time displays. Following an earlier public consultation, the Government took action to exclude CFLs from the scheme as from 31 March this year. A further public consultation on the role of the remaining products and appliances closed in January. We are currently considering the evidence received and expect to publish a response to this consultation shortly.

Carbon Emissions: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the introduction of a carbon price floor on Northern Ireland energy producers who are part of the All Ireland Energy Market. [59146]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The carbon price floor is a UK-wide policy, which will drive new investment in low-carbon technologies across the country.

The Government had discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive during the consultation and are continuing to work with Northern Ireland Executive to monitor potential interactions with the Single Electricity Market and Northern Ireland's commitment to higher levels of investment in renewable electricity generation.

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish his decision on the first carbon capture and storage project. [63274]

Charles Hendry: Negotiations with the Scottish Power consortium on the UK's first carbon capture and storage demonstration project are ongoing, with the aim of reaching an agreement as soon as possible.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects a decision to be made on EU funding for UK carbon capture and storage projects. [63315]

Charles Hendry: EU funding for UK carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects will be provided through a funding mechanism financed from the sale of 300 million EU emissions allowances that are ring fenced in the new entrant reserve in phase 3 of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The process for selecting projects to benefit from the first tranche of funding (raised from the sale of 200 million of the ring-fenced allowances) is under way and the European Commission has stated that it expects to make award decisions in the second half of 2012.

Timings for the selection process and award decisions relating to the second tranche of funding have not yet been published by the European Commission.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the development of carbon capture and storage. [63316]

Charles Hendry: The subject of CCS development is regularly raised in conversations that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and I have with our EU counterparts. My officials also have regular conversations with their counterparts and participate in a number of CCS related EU for a including the CCS European Industrial Initiative, the European CCS Demonstration Project Network Advisory Forum and the Zero Emissions Platform Government Group.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had held with industry representatives on the development of carbon capture and storage in the UK. [63317]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with industry representatives on the development of CCS, including through the biannual CCS Development Forum which I chair, our annual CCS senior stakeholder conference, bilateral meetings and attendance at events such as the Carbon Capture and Storage Association's reception last month.

My ministerial colleagues are of course in regular discussions with the Scottish Power Consortium as part of the negotiations for the UK's first carbon capture and storage demonstration project.

In addition, my officials are in close contact with industry representatives on all aspects of CCS.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for carbon capture and storage projects. [63318]

Charles Hendry: There are regular discussions at ministerial level between the Department and HM Treasury on the question of funding for carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects. This includes discussions on the funding for the first commercial-scale CCS demonstration project, the use of general taxation to fund further demonstration projects and the impact on CCS projects of the proposed electricity market reforms. In addition, my officials hold regular detailed discussions with their counterparts on these issues.

Climate Change: Finance

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the progress made by the UNFCCC's Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund; and what progress he expects the Transitional Committee to have made by the Climate Summit in Durban. [63415]

Gregory Barker: The UK is a member of the Transitional Committee and has participated actively in its first meeting. The Transitional Committee has established workstreams covering the key areas for decision including guiding principles, governance and operating modalities.

There is considerable work underway now to develop and assess options under each of the workstreams, managed by a programme of Transitional Committee meetings and technical workshops.

The timetable for developing its recommendations is challenging. However, I hope the Transitional Committee will be in a position to make its recommendations at the UNFCCC meeting in Durban at the end of this year, as set out in the Cancun agreement.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department intends to take to meet its commitments on climate finance after 2014. [63416]

Gregory Barker: The 2010 spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion of international climate finance to 2014-15 making the UK one of the few countries to commit climate finance beyond the fast start period (2010-12). Climate finance commitments after 2014-15 will be determined during the next spending review.

In the longer term, the Government are fully behind the goal to mobilise $100 billion of public and private finance by 2020 to help developing countries tackle climate change. We are working with our international partners through the UNFCCC, the G20, the International Maritime Organisation and other forums to deliver the long-term sources of climate finance necessary to meet this goal. Through the Capital Markets Climate Initiative we are also working to catalyse private finance flows to developing countries.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government plans to channel all or part of the monies allocated for international climate finance through the Green Climate Fund. [63417]

Gregory Barker: The spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion in international climate finance—the International Climate Fund (ICF)—over the spending review period.

We will consider the size of a potential UK contribution to the Green Climate Fund following the design of the fund and a full evaluation against ICF objectives.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63582]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not collect detailed statistics about the background of individual requesters or the political party affiliations of Members of Parliament. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine this information.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008 and statistics exist for then onwards as follows:

From 3 October 2008 to 31 December 2008 inclusive no requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were received from MPs while 16 requests were received from members of the public.

During 2009 one request was received from an MP and 109 requests were received from members of the public.

During 2010 14 requests were received from MPs and 306 requests were received from members of the public.

From 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 inclusive three requests were received from MPs and 65 requests were received from members of the public.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

Statistics from 1 April have yet to be published as part of the Ministry of Justice's quarterly statistics. Under the Official Statistics Code of Practice, we cannot release statistics for a time period prior to their appearance in a regular statistical report. Statistics for April 2011 onwards will be collated and published in due course.

These figures may not represent all Freedom of Information requests from MPs as we may only record those that are clearly stated as being from an MP.

This information may include data on routine information requests that are not included in the Ministry of Justice's published statistics on freedom of information implementation in central Government, for instance where all the requested information is already published and reasonably accessible to the applicant.

Electricity: Northern Ireland

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Electricity White Paper will include proposals to ensure that power generators in Northern Ireland are not disadvantaged by the introduction of a carbon floor price. [63552]

Charles Hendry: Government are actively working with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to assess the potential impacts of the carbon price floor on the single electricity market.

Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the next Annual Energy Statement will be published. [63275]

Gregory Barker: The next Annual Energy Statement will be published in autumn 2011.

Energy Supply: Defence

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has had discussions with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Ministry of Defence on potential consequences for energy security of reductions in expenditure on defence; and if he will make a statement. [63131]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, have discussed the full range of UK national security issues as members of the National Security Council, including in the context of the strategic defence and security review. DECC and MOD officials have had broad discussions on the possible implications of cuts for energy security, including at the International Energy Security Committee.

Energy: Housing

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the inclusion of voltage optimisation technologies in the Green Deal. [63225]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will cover a broad range of measures, and eligibility for Green Deal finance will ultimately be determined by whether the measures have the potential to pay for themselves through fuel bill savings.

DECC is currently reviewing evidence relating to the performance of voltage optimisation technologies and will clarify the position in the public consultation in autumn 2011.

Energy: Prices

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many meetings he had with *(a)* EDF, *(b)* Scottish Power, *(c)* Scottish and Southern Energy and *(d)* E.ON UK Ltd to discuss energy prices in (i) January, (ii) February, (iii) March, (iv) April and (v) May 2011; and if he will make a statement. [63593]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

Consumers deserve the best possible deal, which means rough and tough competition in the marketplace. We are cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail markets, while Ofgem is tackling other barriers to effective competition (such as tariff complexity and low wholesale market liquidity) in its Retail Market Review. While greater competition should put pressure on prices consumers should also regularly evaluate the best deal on the market.

Government are also taking a range of actions to increase people's control over their energy bills through energy efficiency, including the Green Deal, and better information.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of recent increases in energy prices by Scottish Power on *(a)* consumers in Scotland, *(b)* the incidence of fuel poverty in the UK and *(c)* the incidence of fuel poverty in London; and if he will make a statement. [63594]

Charles Hendry: The Government were disappointed on behalf of consumers about the price rise. We would encourage consumers to regularly check that they are on the best deal and take steps to switch supplier or tariff if they are not. Ofgem's review of retail markets, is proposing, among other things, to simplify tariffs to help consumers find the best deal for them.

No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken.

However, DECC will publish its 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England on 14 July 2011 (as fuel poverty is a devolved statistic, each of the devolved Administrations manage equivalent surveys with the same range of information).

Data on fuel poverty at a sub-regional level, including estimates for London, in 2008 (the latest year for which this information is available) can be found on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/regional/regional.aspx

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on consumers in London of the case of energy mis-selling by Scottish and Southern Energy; and if he will make a statement. [63595]

Charles Hendry: Doorstep selling has proven to be a useful way of bringing the benefits of energy competition to the attention of consumers. It is important, however, to provide consumers with proper safeguards. In 2009, Ofgem brought in new rules that require any information used during the doorstep sales process to be complete, accurate and not misleading. It is for Ofgem to investigate any allegations of the rules being breached and to take any necessary action.

Fuel: Prices

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of recent trends in fuel prices on progress towards the Government's fuel poverty targets. [63386]

Gregory Barker: No formal assessments of the effects of recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty levels have yet been undertaken.

The recent changes in domestic energy prices on fuel poverty will lead to upward pressure on fuel poverty in 2011. Nevertheless, the true effect will only be known when we have full information on price changes from all suppliers and the 2011 English Housing Survey (EHS). The EHS provides vital information for calculating the level of fuel poverty, including the mix of domestic fuels used by households, the income of those living in the households and the energy efficiency of the housing stock. Each of the devolved Administrations manage equivalent surveys with the same range of information, as fuel poverty is a devolved statistic.

However, an assessment of the likely impact of all changes for England will be made on 14 July 2011 when DECC will publish 2011 projections of fuel poverty for England.

Fukushima

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on Fukushima (Interim Report), if he will make it his policy to update Parliament regularly on progress in nuclear safety initiatives undertaken with international partners at the *(a)* G8, *(b)* G20 and *(c)* the International Atomic Energy Agency. [63370]

Charles Hendry: I intend to inform Parliament of significant developments arising in relation to nuclear safety initiatives. This will include any developments that arise as a result of the Government's work with our international partners.

Natural Gas

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the *(a)* greenhouse gas footprint and *(b)* level of methane emissions, including leaks during the production process, arising from the production of (i) natural gas from shale formations, (ii) natural gas from conventional sources and (iii) coal, including related extraction processes and combustion; and if he will make a statement. [62812]

Charles Hendry: I have made no assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions of shale gas related extraction: emissions from shale gas extraction processes will be determined by the design and conditions of a particular development and no development has been proposed for the UK.

I note that a recent report by the International Energy Authority entitled 'Are We Entering A Golden Age For Gas' assessed well-to-burner emissions from unconventional gas, for the particular circumstances they considered and in the 'non venting' case, as only slightly higher than from conventional gas, with the combustion of gas being the dominant source of emissions.

The GHG inventory provides methane leakage emissions. In 2009 fugitive methane emissions from coal mining and handling in the UK was 2860.46 Gg CO2e and for natural gas it was 4293.86 Gg CO2e (of which 65.58 Gg CO2e were attributed to production/processing).

The DEFRA/DECC greenhouse gas (GHG) conversion factors for company reporting provide GHG emission factors from the combustion of fuels (scope 1) and indirect upstream emissions associated with the extraction and transport of primary fuels as well as the refining, distribution, storage and retail of finished fuels (scope 3). These are derived from GHG inventory and Digest of UK Energy Statistic data. The following shows the emissions factors on energy gross calorific value basis for natural gas and coal. We do not have emission factors split into conventional and unconventional natural gas.

	Scope 1	*Scope 3*	*All scopes*
Fuel type	*Total direct GHG kg CO2e per unit*	*Total indirect GHG kg CO2e per unit*	*Grand total GHG e.g. CO2e per unit*
Coal (industrial)	0.32227	0.05265	0.37492
Coal (electricity generation)	0.32190	0.05265	3.37455
Coal (domestic)	0.34010	0.05265	139275
Natural gas	0.18523	0.01799	3.20322

Source:
DEFRA/DECC 2010

Nuclear Power Stations: Sellafield

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on nuclear power provision at Sellafield; and if he will make a statement. [63423]

Charles Hendry: The Government have not held any discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive on Nuclear Power provision at Sellafield.

Solar Power: Housing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on planning rules for the installation of solar photovoltaics on domestic properties. [63276]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers meet regularly with their counterparts from the Department for Communities and Local Government and other Government Departments to discuss a range of issues. It has been the practice of successive Administrations not to reveal details of such meetings.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of installers on planning rules for the installation of solar photovoltaics on domestic properties. [63277]

Gregory Barker: Ministers have regular meetings with the Solar PV industry where a wide range of topics are discussed.

DECC officials have held discussions with the Solar PV industry about planning, as part of the work to complete the Microgeneration Strategy, which was published on the 22 June 2011.

The Microgeneration Strategy seeks to tackle the non-financial barriers facing the sector. Further information is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/microgen/strategy/strategy.aspx

Superconductors: Research

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has allocated to research into the development of superconductors in 2011-12. [62971]

Gregory Barker: The Department has not allocated funding to research into the development of superconductors in 2011-12. However, the Department works closely with Department of Business, Innovation and Skills who sponsor the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) which is doing research on superconductors.

Wind Power

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on the use of overhead pylons to transmit power in Wales. [62837]

Charles Hendry: I have not had specific discussions with the Welsh Government on this issue. However at the British-Irish Council summit on 20 June that I attended, the Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, raised the issue of pylons in Wales as part of a wider point on the impact of the UK Government energy policy on Wales.

The national policy statements published on 23 June set out the need for new electricity infrastructure and provide a framework for planning decision making for power lines at 132 kV and above in England and Wales, and include advice to the decision maker on acceptable levels of mitigation of environmental and visual amenity impacts.

Wind Power: Public Finance

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of constraint payments to wind farm operators in *(a)* the latest period for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the next five years. [63196]

Charles Hendry: Constraint payments to generators of all types are recovered by National Grid as part of the Balancing Services Use of System charges (BSUoS). BSUoS is paid equally by generators and suppliers, based on their energy taken from, or supplied to, the network. National Grid advises that payments to reduce the output of wind farm operators for the latest period are as follows:

2011	*£*
March	0
April	901,258
May	2,622,043
June[1]	681,288

[1] Data to 22 June

National Grid does not forecast future constraint payments by fuel type. Its forecast (as at 31 March 2011) of total constraint costs across all fuel types covers the next two years:

	£ million
April 2011 to March 2012	202.3
April 2012 to March 2013	161.9

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the cumulative public subsidy that will be given to wind power generation in the period between 2010 and 2020. [63197]

Charles Hendry: The Government do not set targets for individual energy generation technologies but we estimate that the contribution of wind energy to the UK 2020 renewable energy target through the RO, feed-in tariff and the climate change levy exemption (estimates in 2010 prices undiscounted) implies a subsidy of over £5 billion in 2020.

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of *(a)* the value of the power generated by and *(b)* the level of public subsidy to an average wind turbine in the latest period for which figures are available. [63198]

Charles Hendry: The day-ahead wholesale electricity price averaged approximately £50/MWh over June 2011, according to the London Energy Brokers Association.

The level of renewables obligation support available to onshore wind farms is one renewables obligation certificate (ROC) per MWh of electricity generated, and that available to offshore wind farms is two ROCs per MWh. The expected value of a ROC is constant over time at around £43 in 2011-12 prices.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Arms Trade: Exports

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many export licences for goods on the Military List were issued in respect of exports to *(a)* Bahrain, *(b)* Saudi Arabia, *(c)* the United Arab Emirates, *(d)* Kuwait, *(e)* Oman and *(f)* Qatar in each month from January to May 2011. [63369]

Mr Prisk: Information on arms exports is published in the annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. These reports contain detailed information on export licences issued, refused or revoked, by destination, including the overall value, type (e.g. military, other) and a summary of the items covered by the licences. They are available to view on the strategic export controls reports and statistics website at:

https://www.exportcontroldb.berr.gov.uk/eng/fox

By registering on the website, it is possible to obtain the information broken down by month.

The reports currently available provide information up to 31 December 2010. Information covering 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 is due to be published in the first week of July and information covering 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011 will be published in October 2011.

Bombardier Aerospace

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on which dates he has had meetings with representatives of Bombardier Aerospace since 12 May 2010; [63728]

(2) what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department plan to have with Bombardier Aerospace to discuss the future of the company in the UK. [63729]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, has had no individual meetings with Bombardier Aerospace since 12 May 2010 although representatives of the company have been present at aerospace events attended by him.

There are no plans for BIS Ministers to meet the company to discuss its future. My noble Friend the Minister of State for Trade and Investment (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint) visited the company on 1 February 2011, as did the Minister for Universities and Science, my right hon. Friend the Member for Havant (Mr Willetts), on 26 May (as part of a visit to the Northern Ireland Advanced Composite and Engineering Development Centre), and I met Bombardier Aerospace at the recent Paris Airshow on 20 June.

Business: Government Assistance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of applications to the Regional Growth Fund were rejected because of concerns about the compliance of any award with EU state aid rules. [62453]

Mr Prisk: In Round 1 no Regional Growth Fund applications were rejected because of concerns about the compliance of any award with EU state aid rules.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Collins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of each grade in his Department advise him on policy relating to *(a)* financial services, *(b)* manufacturing by the (i) automotive, (ii) aviation, (iii) technology, (iv) textile, (v) pharmaceutical, (vi) green technology and (vii) advanced engineering sub-sectors, *(c)* retail by the (i) food and (ii) clothing sub-sectors, *(d)* hotels and restaurants, *(e)* transport and communication by the (i) transport, (ii) telecoms, (iii) publishing and (iv) radio and television sub-sectors and *(f)* digital and creative industries by the (i) digital, (ii) design, (iii) fashion, (iv) music and (v) film sub-sectors. [63437]

Mr Prisk: Much of the Department's resource is focused on creating the right economic conditions for growth across all sectors of the economy. More specifically, the Department has the following people resource focused on individual sectors:

	Number
Aerospace, Marine, Defence, Manufacturing Advisory Service	19
Automotive, Advanced Manufacturing Showcasing	21
Electronics, Materials, Chemicals	33
Green Economy and Green Investment Bank	38
Information Economy	27
Life Sciences	15
Retail, Services, Construction	15

Green Investment Bank

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the selection process for the location of the Green Investment Bank will be by open invitation. [62456]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 29 June 2011]:* The location for the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be chosen to enable it best to deliver its mission. The criteria will be: (1) ability to deliver the GIB mission (2) operational costs, and (3) access to required talent. Fuller details of these criteria are set out in section 2.8 of the "Update on the design of the Green Investment Bank" which was published on 23 May. This decision will be taken in due course. While my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will be taking the decision according to these criteria, in the meantime, cities are welcome to make their case.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many children educated in maintained schools in each local authority area were accepted for entry by *(a)* Cambridge and *(b)* Oxford University in the last year for which figures are available. [62734]

Mr Willetts: The information in the table shows the number of 15-year-olds in English maintained schools in 2003/04 who progressed to Cambridge or Oxford University by age 19 in 2007/08. The local authority is defined by the school where the pupil studied at age 15. Pupils may move to a different local authority area to undertake post-16 studies.

Figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database and the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record. These rounded estimates allow for a small margin of error that arises as result of the matching procedure deployed. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from August 2011.

The figures in the table show the number of students who entered a higher education course at either Cambridge or Oxford, rather than the numbers who were accepted for entry via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Number of 15-year-olds in English maintained schools in 2003/04 who progressed to Cambridge or Oxford University by age 19 in 2007/08

Local authority	*Cambridge*	*Oxford*
Camden	—	5
Greenwich	—	—
Hackney	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	10
Islington	0	—
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—
Lambeth	—	0
Lewisham	5	5
Southwark	—	—
Tower Hamlets	—	0
Wandsworth	10	—
Westminster	—	—
Barking and Dagenham	—	0
Barnet	40	15
Bexley	10	—
Brent	5	5
Bromley	20	20
Croydon	5	—
Ealing	—	5
Enfield	20	15
Haringey	5	—
Harrow	5	10
Havering	15	—
Hillingdon	—	5
Hounslow	5	5
Kingston upon Thames	20	10
Merton	—	—
Newham	—	—
Redbridge	15	10
Richmond upon Thames	5	—

Number of 15-year-olds in English maintained schools in 2003/04 who progressed to Cambridge or Oxford University by age 19 in 2007/08

Local authority	*Cambridge*	*Oxford*
Sutton	20	30
Waltham Forest	—	5
Birmingham	25	25
Coventry	—	—
Dudley	0	10
Sandwell	—	0
Solihull	5	—
Walsall	10	5
Wolverhampton	5	10
Knowsley	0	—
Liverpool	5	10
St Helens	5	—
Sefton	5	—
Wirral	10	5
Bolton	—	—
Bury	—	—
Manchester	—	—
Oldham	5	5
Rochdale	—	—
Salford	—	0
Stockport	5	5
Tameside	—	—
Trafford	15	15
Wigan	—	—
Barnsley	—	—
Doncaster	—	—
Rotherham	—	5
Sheffield	15	10
Bradford	—	—
Calderdale	5	—
Kirklees	10	10
Leeds	20	15
Wakefield	—	5
Gateshead	—	5
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	5
North Tyneside	5	—
South Tyneside	5	—
Sunderland	—	—
Isles of Scilly	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	10	5
Bristol	—	10
North Somerset	—	5
South Gloucestershire	—	5
Hartlepool	0	0
Middlesbrough	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	—	0
Stockton-on-Tees	5	—
Kingston upon Hull	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	5	5
North East Lincolnshire	0	—
North Lincolnshire	0	—
North Yorkshire	40	25
York	5	5
Bedfordshire	5	5
Luton	5	5
Buckinghamshire	45	75

Number of 15-year-olds in English maintained schools in 2003/04 who progressed to Cambridge or Oxford University by age 19 in 2007/08

Local authority	*Cambridge*	*Oxford*
Milton Keynes	—	—
Derbyshire	15	15
Derby	—	—
Dorset	5	5
Poole	5	5
Bournemouth	—	5
Durham	10	15
Darlington	—	0
East Sussex	10	5
Brighton and Hove	5	—
Hampshire	30	45
Portsmouth	—	—
Southampton	—	5
Leicestershire	10	5
Leicester	—	—
Rutland	—	0
Staffordshire	20	10
Stoke-on-Trent	—	—
Wiltshire	15	20
Swindon	5	—
Bracknell Forest	—	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	5	10
West Berkshire	10	5
Reading	10	15
Slough	—	5
Wokingham	5	5
Cambridgeshire	25	30
Peterborough	5	—
Cheshire	20	20
Halton	—	0
Warrington	—	—
Devon	15	20
Plymouth	10	5
Torbay	—	15
Essex	70	25
Southend on Sea	15	—
Thurrock	0	—
Herefordshire	5	10
Worcestershire	10	15
Kent	55	45
Medway	—	—
Lancashire	30	40
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0
Blackpool	0	0
Nottinghamshire	15	20
Nottingham	—	—
Shropshire	—	5
Telford and Wrekin	5	15
Cornwall	10	10
Cumbria	15	15
Gloucestershire	25	40
Hertfordshire	45	35
Isle of Wight	—	—
Lincolnshire	25	15
Norfolk	20	5
Northamptonshire	15	10
Northumberland	5	—
Oxfordshire	15	25
Somerset	10	10
Suffolk	15	10
Surrey	30	20
Warwickshire	15	20
West Sussex	15	10

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five. Figures less than five are shown as '—' and zero counts are shown as 0.
Source:
Matched National Pupil Database and HESA Student Record (NPD-HESA)

Manufacturing Industries

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the contribution to the UK economy of manufacturing in each *(a)* region and *(b)* sector. [62965]

Mr Prisk: The information is as follows:

(a) The contribution of manufacturing to the UK economy broken down by country and region as at 2008 is set out in table 1.

Table 1: Economic contribution of manufacturing by region, 2008

Region	*Percentage of GVA in manufacturing*
England	11.5
Of which:	
North East	16.4
North West	16.0
Yorkshire and the Humber	16.0
East Midlands	16.8
West Midlands	14.9
East of England	11.2
London	5.5
South East	9.3
South West	12.3
Wales	17.0
Scotland	13.1
Northern Ireland	14.4
Total UK	11.6

(b) Manufacturing accounted for £150 billion or 11.6% of total UK gross value added in 2008. The economic contribution of individual manufacturing subsectors is set out in table 2.

Table 2: Economic contribution of manufacturing subsectors, 2008

Manufacturing subsectors	*Percentage of total UK GVA*
Food, beverages and tobacco	1.6
Textiles and textile products	0.3
Leather products and footwear	0.1
Products of wood and cork	0.2
Pulp, paper, printing and publishing	1.5
Coke, refined petroleum and nuclear fuel	0.3
Chemicals and chemical products	1.5
Rubber and plastics products	0.5

Table 2: Economic contribution of manufacturing subsectors, 2008

Manufacturing subsectors	*Percentage of total UK GVA*
Other non-metallic mineral products	0.4
Basic metals and metal products	1.2
Machinery and equipment, n.e.c.	1.0
Electrical and optical equipment	1.3
Transport equipment	1.2
Manufacturing n.e.c. and recycling	0.5
Total manufacturing	11.6

Munitions Workers: Medals

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce a medal for award to former munitions workers. [63137]

Mr Prisk: Following my discussions with a number of hon. Members about options for formally recognising those who worked in munitions factories during the world wars, an inaugural meeting of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Recognition for Munitions Workers has been convened by the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at 1pm in Committee Room 18 to appoint officers. I have offered to attend the first substantive meeting—expected to take place in September.

New Businesses: Government Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* encourage entrepreneurial activity and *(b)* increase the proportion of people starting businesses. [62213]

Mr Prisk: In January 2011, the Department published "Bigger, Better Business: Helping small firms start, grow and prosper", setting out what we are doing to ensure start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises can access the information, networks and advice they need

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/enterprise/docs/b/11-515-bigger-better-business-helping-small-firms

Government will support:

online business information and tools tailored to each business' needs;

a national contact centre to help businesses who cannot find the information they need on the web or who are not connected to the internet;

help for start-ups, including the New Enterprise Allowance;

a network of experienced business mentors offering practical advice;

Business Coaching for Growth, backing high growth SMEs to enable them to realise their potential; and

tailored action to raise low entrepreneurial activity among key parts of our communities, including women, black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and service leavers.

On 28 March Government announced three new initiatives for embedding enterprise into education to effect a lasting transformation of enterprise ambition in the UK

http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/Mar/start-up-britain

Government will support:

every school to engage children in enterprise, by developing an online resource for teachers on how to build and manage a business and by providing ready access to local enterprise champions/mentors;

expansion of the "Tenner Tycoon" initiative, to enable even more children to experience how enterprise can grow their money and benefit their community; and

development of student enterprise societies in every university and the majority of further education colleges to engage and support students to start their own business.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff worked for the Office of the Independent Adjudicator in each year since 2005; how many are expected to work in that Office in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [63599]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Act 2004 required the appointment of an independent body to run a student complaints scheme in England and Wales. The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) is designated to operate an independent student complaints scheme on this basis.

The OIA is a company limited by guarantee, not a non-departmental public body or similar. Staffing is therefore entirely a matter for the OIA.

The OIA can be contacted at: OIA, Third Floor, Kings Reach, 38-50 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 3AA.

Sudan Overseas Investment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to encourage British investment in Sudan and South Sudan. [62221]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), which reports jointly to BIS and FCO Ministers, is focused on helping UK companies do business internationally and helping overseas companies invest in the UK. It does not actively promote outward investment from the UK. Where UK companies with existing plans for overseas investment, or those who have already invested overseas, seek UKTI support it will assist as necessary with lobbying or other advice as appropriate. The UKTI team in the British embassy in Khartoum led by the British ambassador will continue to offer this service. After 9 July when South Sudan is established, the British ambassador in Juba will also assist investors where possible and appropriate.

Public Services Provision

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the terms of reference are for his Department's review of business models of companies that provide public services; and whether he plans to publish the conclusions of the review. [60178]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 17 July 2011]:* Following initial consideration by officials in the Department, I have written to Cabinet Office Ministers to ensure that the Open Public Services White Paper sets out plans for

Departments to develop regimes to detect and cope with potential failure in key public service provision, and that these plans include appropriate consideration of financial risks.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total cost to the public purse is of the abolition of each *(a)* regional development agency and *(b)* regional Government Office. [62405]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are expected to close by 31 March 2012. It is not possible at this point to establish the cost of closing each Agency. The spending review settlement for RDAs provides up to £464 million over the four year period to March 2015, covering variously salaries, redundancies, transition/closure costs, pension liabilities and residual activity.

With respect to Government Offices I refer to the answer given on 3 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 559W, by the Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham).

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 776W, on regional development agency: assets, whether any bids to the first round of the Regional Growth Fund referred to the use of regional development agency assets in their application. [61570]

Mr Prisk: Some bids to the first round of the Regional Growth Fund referred to the use of regional development agency assets in their application. The use of the assets was taken into account during the appraisal of the costs and benefits of these bids.

Universities: Business

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage businesses to sponsor undergraduate and postgraduate places at university. [63624]

Mr Willetts: We want our universities to work with business across all their activities including to promote sponsorship of students. 80% of universities say they are engaged with employers but this can improve. We will create more flexibility in our control of overall student numbers so that there are more opportunities to attract extra higher education places fully funded by employers or charities providing there is fair access and no reduction in academic entry standards.

We also announced in our White Paper "Students at the Heart of the System" (cm 8122) that we had invited Professor Sir Tim Wilson to review how we make the UK the best place in the world for university-industry collaboration.

Water: Imports

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the net level was of imports of water into the UK in each year since 1989. [62923]

Mr Prisk: HM Revenue and Customs recorded the following UK trade for "waters (including natural and artificial mineral and aerated waters), ice and snow, not containing sugar, sweetening matter or flavoured"—Standard International Trade Classification 11101.

	Imports (£ million)	*Exports (£ million)*	*Imports (Thousand tonnes)*	*Exports (Thousand tonnes)*
1989	40.8	2.0	234	5
1990	40.2	4.6	210	12
1991	32.5	4.6	173	10
1992	36.4	5.8	182	14
1993	47.5	5.7	176	14
1994	48.9	6.6	202	18
1995	58.6	7.4	257	21
1996	48.9	7.9	209	21
1997	54.9	7.2	246	22
1998	65.8	6.6	376	22
1999	77.0	6.5	369	17
2000	83.1	6.2	384	19
2001	107.1	8.5	504	26
2002	90.9	11.6	475	33
2003	114.4	14.0	679	49
2004	92.1	13.6	574	52
2005	110.4	20.6	650	89
2006	115.3	24.7	820	94
2007	94.3	22.3	514	85
2008	89.7	21.9	506	83
2009	106.0	27.1	593	79
2010	106.0	27.8	602	83

TREASURY

Bank Services: Sudan

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to assist Sudanese businessmen to set up bank accounts in the UK. [63374]

Mr Hoban: There are no specific legal or regulatory barriers to Sudanese businessmen obtaining a UK bank account. Decisions on the products and services offered by financial institutions are a commercial matter for the institution.

Banks: Finance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the administrative costs of a scheme to offer free shares to the public in Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds TSB. [62922]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments (UKFI) manages the Government's shareholding in Lloyds Banking Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland at an arm's length and commercial basis. UKFI's objective is to dispose of the

investments in an orderly and active manner, within the context of an overarching objective of protecting and creating value for the taxpayer.

The Treasury and UKFI are continuing to assess all potential options to realise value for taxpayers through the disposal of these shares, and will explore the distribution of shares to the public alongside ongoing preparations for other disposal options.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* individual monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of those contracts. [62716]

Justine Greening: Since May 2010 HM Treasury awarded one contract to Capita Group Ltd that expired in June. The contract was for executive search services.

The monetary value of the contract is dependent on the level of usage. Spend to date is £26,785 (excluding VAT).

Commodity Markets

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 323W, on commodity markets, if he will place in the Library a copy of each relevant item of analysis from economic organisations referred to in the answer. [63083]

Justine Greening: Relevant analysis is freely available on the internet and can be accessed on the following websites:

International Energy Agency (IEA):

Medium-term oil and gas markets 2010:

http://omrpublic.iea.org/omrarchive/mtogm2010_part1.pdf?bcsi_scan_F8D0BFE83951C3DA=0&bsci_scan_filename=mtogm2010_part1.pdf

Monthly Oil market reports:

http://omrpublic.iea.org/

World Energy Outlook 2010:

http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/docs/weo2010/WEO2010_es_english.pdf

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

World Economic Outlook 2011:

http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2011/01/pdf/text.pdf

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Demand growth in developing countries:

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/agriculture-and-food/demand-growth-in-developing-countries_5km91p2xcsd4-en

World Bank

Placing the 2006-08 commodity price boom into perspective:

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/07/21/000158349_20100721110120/Rendered/PDF/WPS5371.pdf

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63325]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has no current plans to generate low-carbon energy but like all Government Departments has committed to reduce its carbons footprint by 10%.

Departmental Manpower

Damian Collins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials of each grade in his Department advise him on policy relating to *(a)* financial services, *(b)* manufacturing by the (i) automotive, (ii) aviation, (iii) technology, (iv) textile, (v) pharmaceutical, (vi) green technology and (vii) advanced engineering sub-sectors, *(c)* retail by the (i) food and (ii) clothing sub-sectors, *(d)* hotels and restaurants, *(e)* transport and communication by the (i) transport, (ii) telecoms, (iii) publishing and (iv) radio and television sub-sectors and *(f)* digital and creative industries by the (i) digital, (ii) design, (iii) fashion, (iv) music and (v) film sub-sectors. [63438]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. An organogram for the Treasury Group can be accessed via the data.gov.uk website at:

http://data.gov.uk/organogram/hm-treasury

This sets out departmental staff by team and grade and by area of work.

Departmental Procurement

Mr Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61685]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury expects all suppliers to maintain high standards of integrity and professionalism in their business dealings. The Department's standard contractual terms reflect this requirement. There are no specific terms relating to behavioural standards, but standard contract conditions for goods and services provide for the contractor to comply with standards applying to:

the prevention of corruption and fraud;

discrimination;

health and safety;

protection of data;

confidentiality; and

security and environmental requirements.

The conditions for services also provide for compliance with standards relating to the:

avoidance of conflicts of interest; and

vetting of contractors' personnel.

HM Treasury's contracts may be modified to take account of the type of goods or services being supplied and the risks to the Department.

Since January 2011, the Treasury has published its contracts (including terms and conditions) above £10,000 (in value) on the Treasury website.

Bio diesel

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the 20p duty differential for the sustainable biodiesel sector. [62841]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce).

The consultation on the implementation of the transport elements of the renewable energy directive (RED) closed on 2 June 2011. The Department for Transport will publish a summary of responses shortly.

Economic Growth: EU Countries

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made for benchmarking purposes of projected economic growth levels in the *(a)* Eurozone and *(b)* EU over the next five years. [63606]

Mr Hoban: The Government continue to monitor all relevant factors from a range of sources as part of their surveillance of the UK economy. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) will provide an updated assessment of prospects for the UK economy in the autumn.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Bob Blackman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leeds North East of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 115W, on Equitable Life Assurance Society: compensation, whether his Department or actuaries commissioned by his Department made any estimate of the cost of compensating Equitable Life policyholders who purchased with-profits annuities prior to 1 September 1992 on the same basis as the calculations made for those who purchased such annuities after 1 September 1992. [63223]

Mr Hoban: The parliamentary ombudsman recommended that the aim of the payment scheme should be

"to put those people who suffered a relative loss back into the position that they would have been in had maladministration not occurred".

The Government have accepted that those who invested in Equitable Life from September 1992 may have suffered relative loss as a result of maladministration. That is on the basis that September 1992 was the earliest date by which the regulatory returns they may have used to inform their decision to invest would have been different if maladministration had not occurred, and therefore that they might have decided to invest their funds in another company.

This was not the case for with profit annuitants who invested prior to September 1992, and therefore no loss calculations have been done for these with profit annuitants on a similar basis.

EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what European directives in force on 1 April 2010 his Department is responsible; and what European directives for which his Department is responsible have come into force since 1 April 2010. [60701]

Justine Greening: Existing EU legislation is set out in the Eur-Lex database available at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm

A review of the entire stock would incur disproportionate cost.

There are a number of directives which have come into force (in whole or in part) since 1 April 2010 for which HM Treasury has responsibility:

Directive 2009/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 amending directive 98/26/EC on settlement finality in payment and securities settlement systems and directive 2002/47/EC on financial collateral arrangements as regards linked systems and credit claims;

Directive 2009/110/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on the taking up, pursuit and prudential supervision of the business of electronic money institutions amending directives 2005/60/EC and 2006/48/EC and repealing directive 2000/46/EC;

Directive 2009/111/EC of 16 September 2009 amending directives 2006/48/EC, 2006/49/EC and 2007/64/EC as regards banks affiliated to central institutions, certain own funds items, large exposures, supervisory arrangements, and crisis management; and

Directive 2010/76/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 amending directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC as regards capital requirements for the trading book and for re-securitisations, and the supervisory review of remuneration policies.

The following directives will also be brought into force (in whole or in part) on 1 July 2011:

Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities;

Commission directive 2010/43/EU of 1 July 2010 implementing directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards organisational requirements, conflicts of interest, conduct of business, risk management and content of the agreement between a depositary and a management company; and

Commission directive 2010/44/EU of 1 July 2010 implementing directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards certain provisions concerning fund mergers, master-feeder structures and notification procedure.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Lilian Greenwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to tackle alcohol fraud since the allocation of funding for that purpose in the comprehensive spending review. [61910]

Justine Greening: Spending Review 2010 announced that HMRC would reinvest £900 million to address the tax gap and tackle tax avoidance and evasion, bringing in additional revenues of £7 billion a year by 2014-15. This includes strengthening HMRC's enforcement operations within their "Tackling Alcohol Fraud" strategy.

Excise Duties: Wines

Mel Stride: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to adjust rates of duty on wine production. [62817]

Justine Greening: Budget 2010 stated that

"the Government will continue with the plans it inherited to increase the alcohol duty rates by 2 per cent above inflation each year to 2014-15".

This includes duty on wine.

Foster Care: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had on financial support for children in kinship care; [62974]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of financial support for children in kinship care; [62975]

(3) if he will consider the merits of introducing a single UK-wide financial payment for children in kinship care. [62976]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* Where carers have the primary responsibility for bringing up a child, there is UK-wide financial provision through child benefit and child tax credit, which can be paid on the same terms as to a parent. Child benefit and child tax credit guarantee support for the first child of over £4,000 a year for carers on very low incomes. Guardian's allowance can also be paid where both parents are deceased or, in prescribed circumstances, where only one parent is deceased. In order to prevent double provision, this support is not provided where the accommodation or maintenance of a looked-after child is provided from public funds.

Support for children through the care system is a devolved matter. Statutory guidance that came into force on 1 April 2011 requires English local authorities to have clear and transparent published policies about how they support family and friends carers of children in need in different legal circumstances.

The Government's welfare reforms will build a simpler, fairer system that protects the most vulnerable and makes work pay. The Department for Work and Pensions is keen to ensure that the varied needs of kinship carers are reflected in policy design and implementation, and to this end they are engaging with kinship carers to understand their priorities.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* decision-making on provision and *(b)* delivery of financial support for children in kinship care. [63479]

Justine Greening: Support for children through the care system is a devolved matter. In England, family and friends carers of looked after children must be approved as foster carers and receive support as other foster carers do. Responsibility for maintaining a looked after child lies with the child's local authority and therefore the cost to the foster carer of caring for the child is paid to them in the form of a fostering allowance. The Government set a national minimum fostering allowance. The fostering allowance should be calculated according to criteria that do not discriminate against foster carers that are related to the child.

Family and friends carers of children who are not looked after by the English local authority may be eligible for child-related benefits, such as child benefit and the child tax credit. In order to prevent double provision, this support is not provided where the accommodation or maintenance of a looked after child is provided from public funds.

The Children Act 1989 also allows local authorities in England to provide support, including financial support, to family and friends carers of children who are not looked after, if the child is assessed as being in need. Local authorities may also provide financial support to family and friends carers who hold a residence or special guardianship order or who become adopters. Statutory guidance that came into force on 1 April 2011 requires English local authorities to have clear and transparent published policies about how they support family and friends carers of children in need in different legal circumstances.

Foster Care: Guardian's Allowance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has received any representations on extending the availability of guardian's allowance to cover children in kinship care. [62973]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* The Government receive a range of representations on a wide range of topics, including guardian's allowance.

Money: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr Offord: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of counterfeit £1 coins in circulation. [63186]

Justine Greening: The Royal Mint and the Treasury are working with banks, the Post Office, cash handling and sorting businesses, the police and the vending industry to remove counterfeit £1 coins from circulation before they reach the pockets of members of the public. Coin handling businesses, such as banks and the Post Office, handle over 3 billion £1 coins every year. They use high-speed, automated systems to process customer deposits and prepare coin for reissue. These automated systems are capable of detecting and withdrawing a significant number of counterfeit coins. All counterfeit coins detected from coin processing are sent to the Royal Mint for disposal. The Royal Mint is also working with other validator and coin sorting manufacturers to help improve the counterfeit detection rate.

The Royal Mint holds regular briefings to educate the public and the coin handling industry on how to identify counterfeits, and has issued educational leaflets and posters.

Mortgage Express: Complaints

George Eustice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints his Department has received about Mortgage Express since 29 September 2008. [63330]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials received representations from a wide variety of individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of those who were employed full-time in the public sector receive an annual occupational pension in respect of their public sector employment of *(a)* £4,000 or less, *(b)* £4,000 to £6,000 and *(c)* £6,000 to £8,000. [63361]

Danny Alexander: HM Treasury does not hold data on the pension benefits payable to those who were employed full-time in the public sector. This information may be available from departments that lead on individual public service pension schemes.

Table 1.C of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's interim report, published on 7 October 2010 provides a breakdown of the median pensions in payment for the largest public service pension schemes, along with the proportion of pensioner members who receive benefits of less than £1,000. The table can be found on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/hutton_pensions interim_071010.pdf

Revenue and Customs: Debts

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 703W, on Revenue and Customs: debt collection, whether he plans to transfer HM Revenue and Customs' powers of distraint to its appointed debt collection agencies; and if he will make a statement. [63366]

Mr Gauke: HMRC does not currently refer cases to debt collection agencies for distraint action. This work is undertaken directly by HMRC.

There are no current plans to change this approach but, as with many aspects of its work, this is something that HMRC is keeping under active review.

Road Fuel Testing Unit

Mel Stride: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of the Road Fuel Testing Unit in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [62815]

Justine Greening: The total cost of the Road Fuel Testing Unit was £8.1 million in 2009-10, and £11.5 million in 2010-11.

Mel Stride: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of fines given by the Road Fuel Testing Unit for the misuse of red diesel in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [62816]

Justine Greening: The total revenues collected as a result of the imposition of civil penalties and restoration fees combined were £1 million in 2009-10, and £1 million in 2010-11.

Taxation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* prepare and *(b)* publish an assessment of the impact of the Government's tax and benefit policies on (i) women and (ii) men, using all available data. [63075]

Mr Gauke: HM Treasury, HMRC and DWP consider the equality impact of individual tax and welfare policy changes as they are developed and implemented, making use of the best evidence available to them.

The Government have taken significant steps to improve tax policy making since coming into office. This has included a new approach to impact analysis for tax measures. The Government now publish a Tax Information and Impact Note for individual tax policy changes. These explicitly include an assessment of the equalities impact of individual measures.

It is very difficult to produce robust gender analysis of the overall tax and benefit system. Breaking down the impact of overall tax and welfare changes by gender requires making assumptions about how income is shared within the household. The uncertainties involved are such that results based on such assumptions are not proper and valid policy making tools.

VAT: Sports

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with sports governing bodies on the treatment for VAT purposes by HM Revenue and Customs of sports league block bookings. [63037]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2011, *Official Report,* column 512W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Bristol North West (Charlotte Leslie).

Working Tax Credit

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households where one adult is a carer he estimates will be affected by the change in the working hours qualification for couples with children who claim working tax credit in April 2012; [63031]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children affected by the increase in the working hours qualification for couples with children to claim working tax credit in April 2012; [63042]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of households in each constituency to be affected by the change in working hours qualification for couples with children to claim working tax credit in April 2012. [63044]

Mr Gauke: The measures referred to in these questions are part of a range of reforms to the tax credits system announced at the spending review.

Estimating the number of households impacted by an individual measure does not give a clear indication of the full monetary impact on an individual household.

The Government published estimates of the distributional impact of the packages of announced tax and benefit measures which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/sr2010_annexb.pdf

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of children living in poverty of the change in working hours qualification for couples with children to claim working tax credit in April 2012. [63045]

Mr Gauke: It is the impact of the tax and benefit system as a whole that is important for child poverty.

The Government increased the child element of the child tax credit by £180 above indexation in April 2011 and will increase it by £110 above indexation in April 2012. As a result, modelled tax and benefit reforms announced since Budget 2010 may have a small reduction in child poverty in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 July 2011

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Education

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms are participating in agri-environment scheme agreements; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of such agreements in delivering her Department's agri-environmental objectives; and if she will make a statement. [63347]

Mr Paice: As at 23 May 2011, in England there were 56,186 participants in our agri-environment schemes, covering 6.3 million ha (67.4% of Utilisable Agricultural Area). Agri-environment schemes include Environmental Stewardship (ES) and its predecessor schemes, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Stewardship.

The Government believe that agri-environment schemes are the key tool for delivering their objectives for the natural environment. Our schemes are supported by a £1.4 million/year monitoring and evaluation programme and a £2.1 million/year research programme.

Both these programmes contribute to the growing evidence base relating to the scheme objectives for wildlife, landscape, the historic environment, resource protection and access. The programmes include work to assess the impact of ES across a range of species, assess the success of ES habitat management and examine alternative management techniques with a view to improving the environmental delivery of the scheme.

The following link sets out further detail on effectiveness of the schemes:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/aesiereport.aspx

Angling

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the effect on angling of river conditions in chalk streams; and if she will make a statement. [63340]

Richard Benyon: Healthy chalk streams need enough water of the right quality together with suitable habitats to ensure productive angling.

Across England there is a lot to do as only a quarter of chalk streams are currently regarded as healthy according to the water framework directive (WFD). Making the required improvements to address the impacts of land use, abstraction, urbanisation and diffuse pollution will require concerted action by statutory organisations and others including water companies and fishery owners.

In the long-term, Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) and the Periodic Review of Water Companies are some of the programmes that the Environment Agency (EA) and Ofwat are implementing. Additionally, the WFD is driving extensive work programs to deliver sustainable river restoration which will directly benefit our lakes and rivers. In the Water White Paper, due in the autumn, we are looking to make some changes which will improve the efficiency of the RSA programme. We will also provide more details on our plans to reform the abstraction management system to provide clearer signals to abstractors to make the necessary investments to meet water needs and protect ecosystem functioning.

2011 has been an exceptionally dry year so far; the EA is watching the situation carefully to ensure there is enough water for people and the environment.

Eggs: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the potential effects on the egg industry of imports of *(a)* products manufactured from shell eggs produced in non-compliant systems in the EU and *(b)* egg product manufactured from conventional cage production systems outside the EU. [62119]

Mr Paice: The Government are totally committed to the 2012 deadline to have phased out the keeping of laying hens in conventional cages in the UK.

From 1 January 2012 it will be illegal to market eggs in this country from hens still in conventional cages.

We are not able unilaterally to prevent egg products produced from eggs in conventional cages being imported from Third Countries. World Trade Organisation rules do not allow members to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applied in third countries.

We have, however, been at the forefront of efforts to convince the Commission that simply relying on infraction proceedings against non-compliant member states will not be enough to deal with the negative impact that non-compliance would cause and that additional measures would need to be put in place to prevent market disturbance and to protect compliant producers. We will continue to keep up the pressure on the Commission to act and act quickly.

Rivers: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will visit the Rivers Beane and Mimram in North East Hertfordshire constituency to assess their condition. [63007]

Richard Benyon: I would be happy to visit my hon. Friend's constituency and consider the current issues facing the Rivers Beane and Mimram.

Sea Bass

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations she has received on increasing to 48cm the minimum landing size of sea bass for the purposes of ensuring that all sea bass taken have had at least one chance to spawn; and if she will make a statement. [63694]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* I confirm that there is a long standing history of representation from UK angling interests to increase the current minimum landing size (MLS) for sea bass, to achieve a better match to the size at which bass reach sexual maturity. A significant proportion of the commercial bass fishery, however, features vessels using trawled gear in a mixed fishery, which means the issue of raising the MLS is complex. To prevent a large increase in discards of bass in commercial fisheries using the most commonly applied mesh size range, the vessels would need to alter their fishing gear design or fishing practices to avoid catching or retaining under-sized bass.

The current MLS is set out in EU legislation, and there will be a review and update of the overall package of technical measures, including MLSs where still applied following the Common Fisheries Policy reform process. This is the best means to determine agreed standards needed for any fishing gear and MLS which would apply to all member states involved in the fishery.

Yorkshire Dales National Park

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the proposed extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park on the areas proposed to be included; [63532]

(2) for what reason it is proposed to extend the Yorkshire Dales National Park into northern Lancashire. [63533]

Richard Benyon: Natural England is currently assessing proposed extensions to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, including Leek Fell in Lancashire.

For designation to proceed, the areas must satisfy the criteria set out in Section 5(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The Act defines a National Park as: an extensive tract of country in England which it appears to Natural England that, by reason of its natural beauty and the opportunities it affords for open-air recreation, having regard to both its character and its position in relation to centres of population, it is especially desirable that it is designated for the purposes of conserving and enhancing its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and promoting understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities by the public.

Once a decision has been made by Natural England, it will be for the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine whether to confirm the designation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Equal Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on equal pay, when he expects the final version of the most recent equal pay audit of employees of the House of Commons Service to be available. [64145]

John Thurso: The House has consulted the trade unions on the draft equal pay report and a number of minor amendments have been agreed with them. A final summary version for publication has been prepared and it is expected that it will be made available before the summer recess.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63253]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not have any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate, which consists of two listed buildings, one in Edinburgh and one in London. However, a significant reduction in carbon emissions from its estate has been achieved by the Scotland Office over the past year.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63589]

David Mundell: The Department does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requester is a Member of Parliament or a member of the public.

The earliest calendar year for which the Scotland Office holds searchable records of the names of individual requesters is 2010. During 2010, we have identified 23 requests as having been received from MPs however this figure may not represent all Freedom of Information requests from MPs as we can only identify those that are clearly stated as being from an MP.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much his Department has spent on placing advertisements in newspapers in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005; [63387]

(2) how much his Department spent on advertising in each newspaper in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [63388]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010, all advertising for the Northern Ireland Office has been contracted out to third party media agencies. This advertising has been in connection

with the recruitment and appointment of commissioners to the Parades Commission, the Equality Commission and the NIHRC by the NIO, and by the Chief Electoral Officer in connection with the recent Assembly elections. The total spend on such agencies was £64,404.

My Department does not hold information on advertising spend for each individual newspaper in Northern Ireland.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on advertising on *(a)* local radio and *(b)* local television in Northern Ireland in each year since 2005. [63389]

Mr Paterson: Comparable figures for the Department as it is now configured are not available following the completion of devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010.

Since 12 April 2010 my Department has had a nil spend for advertising on *(a)* local radio and *(b)* local television in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63558]

Mr Paterson: The Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. For example, many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

During the 12 months to the end of May 2011 a total of 10,449 invoices were received by the Department. 40% of these were paid within five working days of receipt, and 97.5% were paid within 10 working days of receipt.

Victim Support

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has had recent discussions with the Irish Government on joint steps by the British and Irish Governments to address the needs of victims; and if he will make a statement. [63421]

Mr Paterson: I have met with the Irish Foreign Minister twice in the past three months to discuss a range of issues, including dealing with the past.

Responsibility for providing practical services and support to victims rests with the devolved administration. For its part, the UK Government are committed to considering what contribution they can make to dealing with the contentious legacy of the Troubles in a way that helps bring a measure of closure to victims and wider society.

Welfare State: Reform

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [64141]

Mr Paterson: I have had no such discussions, though my Department is in contact with the Executive about securing the Assembly's consent for certain provisions of the Bill.

WALES

Departmental Advertising

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department has spent on placing advertisements in newspapers in Wales in each year since 2005. [63391]

Mr David Jones: In 2006 recruitment advertisements were placed in national and Welsh newspapers to recruit the Head of Communications. The total spent on the advertising in Welsh newspapers was £3,950.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by her Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63555]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office paid 94.63% of all invoices within five days over the last 12 months. Our records are not kept in a form that enables us to differentiate between the sizes of businesses.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether her Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63254]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has a small estate, consisting of a listed building in London and leased office space in Cardiff, and it is not practicable to generate low-carbon energy on this estate. My Department has, however, put in place initiatives to reduce its environmental impact, such as:

increasing recycling;

encouraging staff to switch off unused electrical equipment; and

more use of video conferencing to reduce the need to travel to and from meetings.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to her Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by her Department in each such year; what the average cost to her Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps her Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since her appointment. [63003]

Mr David Jones: The Department for Transport publish the cost and numbers of ministerial cars each year in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses.

2005-06

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and due for release in July 2011.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data. The Wales Office has reduced the number of ministerial cars from three to one.

In September 2010 we reduced the cars in London from two to one and in May 2011 we returned the car used in Cardiff at the end of its contract.

Enterprise Zones

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Government on the potential to establish enterprise zones in Wales similar to those in England; and if she will make a statement. [61122]

Mrs Gillan: I had initial discussions with the First Minister on the day of the Budget, following the announcement of the introduction of enterprise zones in England, which should result in consequential payments of £10 million to the Welsh Government.

I have also written on a number of occasions making clear my commitment to work with the Welsh Government to establish enterprise zones in Wales.

I am pleased that the First Minister has now confirmed that Wales will benefit from enterprise zones. This will provide a much needed boost to businesses, and make Wales more attractive to investors.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how much was spent on electoral administrative costs in each local authority area in each year since 2007. [63430]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that all the information is available by local authority on their website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

The information covers the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Data relating to 2009-10 will be published in summer 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which local authorities did not provide routine electoral administrative cost data returns in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [63431]

Mr Streeter: The local authorities who did not provide routine electoral administrative cost data returns in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 can be found in the following lists. This information is also available on the Commission's website at:

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/performance-standards/financial-information

Data relating to 2009-10 will be published this summer. The Commission has contacted all local authorities that did not provide information to remind them of the importance of doing this, and requested that information is provided for inclusion in our report on 2009-10 costs.

2007-08

Amber Valley
Barnet
Bedford
Blaenau Gwent
Bolsover
Boston
Breckland
Brentwood
Castle Morpeth
Ceredigion
Cherwell
Chiltern
Colchester
Copeland
Crawley
Durham City
East Hampshire
East Lindsey
Enfield
Gateshead
Halton
Haringey
Harlow
Hastings
Herefordshire
Hillingdon
Ipswich
Isles of Scilly
Kensington and Chelsea
Lambeth
Lewisham
Luton
Maidstone
Melton
Merthyr Tydfil
Mid Sussex
Monmouthshire
North Kesteven

North Lincolnshire
North West Leicestershire
Oldham
Powys
Redditch
Rugby
Rutland
Selby
South Bucks
South Derbyshire
South Lakeland
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
St Edmundsbury
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Swansea
Tewkesbury
Thanet
Vale of Glamorgan
Winchester

2008-09

Babergh
Barking and Dagenham
Barnet
Basildon
Bedford
Breckland
Brentwood
Brighton and Hove
Broadland
Bromsgrove
Castle Point
Central Bedfordshire
Ceredigion
Chiltern
City of London
Copeland
Corby
Dudley
East Hampshire
East Lindsey
East Riding of Yorkshire
Erewash
Fenland
Greenwich
Harrogate
Hertsmere
Ipswich
Kensington and Chelsea
Lambeth
Leeds
Lewes
Lewisham
Luton
Manchester
Mid Sussex
Monmouthshire
Newham
Newport
North Hertfordshire
North Lincolnshire
Northumberland
Norwich
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oxford
Peterborough
Portsmouth
Powys
Preston
Redditch
Ribble Valley
Richmondshire
Rochford
Rugby
Rutland
Sefton
Selby
Shepway
Shropshire
South Derbyshire
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Spelthorne
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Tandridge
Thanet
Warrington
Warwick
Waverley
Wiltshire
Winchester
Woking
Wokingham
Wrexham
Wyre Forest
York

Electoral Commission

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to improve the quality of data collected by the Commission on the interventions it carries out. [63429]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission will be revising the performance standards framework over the coming year in order to focus on the delivery of quality outcomes and the monitoring of performance in real-time. As part of this review the Electoral Commission will consider recommendations provided by internal and external audits over the past year and will consult widely on the proposed revisions.

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which electoral registration officers rated themselves too highly in their self-assessment and had their ratings reduced in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [63427]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that in 2008 14 electoral registration officers rated themselves too highly, and had their assessment reduced. Three electoral registration officers assessments were reduced in 2009 and none in 2010. The following lists show the electoral registration officers in question.

2008

Bournemouth
Caradon
Carrick
Cheltenham
East Devon
Forest of Dean
North Cornwall
North Devon
North Dorset
Purbeck
Sedgemoor
Swindon
West Devon
West Somerset

2009

Bournemouth
Lambeth
Newcastle

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, which regions of the UK did not achieve the required verification size for electoral registration officers self-assessment in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [63428]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that all regions in the UK achieved the required verification sample sizes of 25% in each region for 2008 (the first year of performance standards), and 10% in each region for 2009 and 2010.

Electoral Register: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, when the Electoral Commission plans to move towards outcome-focused measures for electoral registration performance standards. [63426]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission is currently developing a revised set of performance standards for electoral registration officers (EROs) and will consult formally on these in early 2012 with view to implementing the new approach in time for the September 2012 annual canvass of electors. The new standards will focus on the activities EROs will need to consider in order to move successfully towards a system of individual registration.

PRIME MINISTER

Railways: China

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed China's recent development of high speed rail travel and lessons that the UK might learn from this experience during the recent visit to the UK of the Chinese Premier. [63549]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave during the press conference with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday 27 June 2011. A transcript of the press conference is available on the Number 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2011/06/press-conference-with-premier-wen-jiabao-65285

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: China

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has met representatives of the Chinese Government to discuss the creative industries. [63053]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I met with representatives of the Chinese Government on 26 June. A range of issues relating to my Department's many areas of responsibility were discussed, including the creative industries.

Arts: Tax Allowances

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he last discussed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer the provision of tax incentives for arts philanthropy. [63032]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly discuss a broad range of issues with Treasury colleagues. On 29 June my Department, HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs jointly published a consultation document on gifts of pre-eminent objects and works of art to the nation. This is a significant new incentive to arts philanthropy which was announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Budget.

Broadband: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 164W, on broadband, by what date he expects the households with low-speed broadband in North East Hertfordshire constituency to have access to high-speed broadband; and if he will make a statement. [63006]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is working with Hertfordshire county council on their local broadband plan, which will inform the delivery of broadband in Hertfordshire up to 2015.

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62729]

John Penrose: The Department has not awarded any contracts to Capita since May 2010.

Creative Industries Council

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what sub-groups are proposed to be established as part of the Creative Industries Council. [63048]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Creative Industries Council will establish two 'task and finish' working groups in order to take forward actions in the areas of skills and access to finance. A third working group will look at issues which impact on businesses' ability to achieve growth including innovation, infrastructure, intellectual property and exports.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63251]

John Penrose: The Department has no plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62998]

John Penrose: The information relating to the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses.

2005-06

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and are due for release in July 2011. The Department has cancelled its contract with the Government Car Service and no cars or drivers are allocated to its Ministers.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' ministerial car service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is set out in the following table:

	Number of journeys
2010	
September	3
October	3
November	3
December	0
2011	
January	0
February	2
March	1

Historic Buildings: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps are available to communities in cases where heritage buildings owned by *(a)* public authorities and *(b)* private individuals or companies are allowed to fall into disrepair. [63051]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Communities can put pressure on their public authorities to maintain appropriate standards of care for local authority owned heritage buildings, or where the conditions are right they can seek to have ownership of buildings transferred to them so they can take direct responsibility. English Heritage has produced guidance on both looking after local authority assets—'Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets: some guiding principles for decision-makers' and transferring assets into community ownership—'Pillars of the Community'.

Communities can encourage their local authorities to serve amenity notices, urgent works notices, repairs notices and ultimately compulsory purchase orders on owners who let their historic buildings fall into disrepair.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the cost of reducing the rate of VAT on repairs on listed buildings and heritage assets other than places of worship. [63101]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I regularly meet with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to discuss a wide range of issues. However, VAT is a matter for Her Majesty's Treasury.

Internet: Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to facilitate the blocking of *(a)* adult and *(b)* age-restricted internet material by parents; what recent discussions he has had with internet providers on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [63114]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to ensuring children can use the internet safely. I have already had a number of roundtables with internet service providers (ISPs) to look at creating a voluntary code of practice to protect children from viewing potentially harmful content such as that found on adult and age-restricted websites.

Government chair the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) which is responsible for ensuring children are protected from harmful and inappropriate content when online.

Through UKCCIS, we are working with industry to ensure that all consumers are able to make an active choice at point of sale, or when they first switch on their internet-enabled technologies, if they want parental control filters to be activated. This approach was also recommended in the recently published Bailey review.

Internet: Copyright

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with *(a)* copyright holders, *(b)* internet service providers and *(c)* internet companies on websites alleged to facilitate copyright infringement. [62835]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are regularly in discussion with all relevant parts of industry about ways to reduce online copyright infringement. As a part of that wider dialogue, Government have hosted discussions between copyright owners, internet service providers, search engines and consumer representation on issues around blocking access to websites that are focussed primarily on infringing copyright.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the introduction of a website blocking scheme to prevent copyright infringement. [62836]

Mr Vaizey: The Government do not have any in-principle objections to blocking access to websites which are set up primarily to infringe copyright. We recognise that there are technical issues which need to be addressed in order for a site blocking scheme to be effective, and appreciate that any such scheme should take due consideration of consumer rights and be compatible with both UK and European legislation.

We have received Ofcom's report, which Government commissioned, on the practical workability of the site blocking measures in the Digital Economy Act (sections 17 and 18). We are considering it carefully and will publish the report and the Government's response in due course. In the meantime, Government have hosted discussions between copyright owners, internet service providers, search engines and consumer representation on issues around blocking access to websites that are focused primarily on infringing copyright. These are industry proposals which Government are observing with interest.

Lytham Hall

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the future of Lytham Hall. [63909]

John Penrose: The Department has not received representations on the future of Lytham Hall, however the building is on English Heritage's At Risk Register and is Grade I listed. English Heritage have provided specialist support and advice to the Heritage Trust for the North West who are the custodians of the Hall, and recently commissioned a programme of dendrochronological dating for the Hall to assist the Trust in better understanding the development of the site.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr M.E. Haworth. [64069]

John Penrose: A reply from the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport was e-mailed to the right hon. Member's parliamentary office on 25 May within 48 hours of receipt of his correspondence. We will e-mail another copy immediately in case the original cannot be found.

Museums and Galleries: Charitable Trusts

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to agree with national museums a framework for the creation of charitable trusts. [63046]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: A framework and way forward was agreed at the end of May 2011 when national museum directors and I met.

Music: Video Recordings

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce an age rating classification system for music videos; and if he will make a statement. [63120]

Mr Vaizey: Ministers have already made a commitment to carrying out a consultation on the exemptions in the Video Recordings Act. That consultation will be published in the summer.

Olympic Games 2012

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games on the route to be followed by the Olympic torch. [63035]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State met the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games on 27 April to be briefed on the overnight stops for the London 2012 torch relay.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of free passes to attend London 2012 Olympics events which will be allocated to *(a)* members of the International Olympic Committee and *(b)* the Olympic family. [63673]

Hugh Robertson: There are no free passes or tickets for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The London Organising Committee (LOCOG) are responsible for ticketing and accreditation for the games. LOCOG will accredit those that will be working at the games, including the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic family, but at this stage the numbers of accreditations have not been finalised.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the arrangements put in place by the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics to keep applicants for tickets to the Olympics informed of the progress of their applications. [63393]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) has regularly and directly communicated with applicants for tickets to the Olympic Games. In addition, LOCOG has placed considerable information about the ticketing process on:

http://www.tickets.london2012.com

LOCOG will continue to communicate with applicants and ticketholders over the next 13 months until the Games themselves.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the distribution of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics *(a)* overall and *(b)* by region. [63394]

Hugh Robertson: The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) is a private company operating independently of Government, responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the 2012 Games.

Overall at the close of the first application window in April 2011, 1.9 million applications were made for 22 million Olympic tickets. Over 95% of applications—and successful applications—were from UK residents. 700,000 applicants were successful in obtaining some or all of the tickets they applied for, securing a total of 3 million tickets. Successful applicants were, on average, allocated between four and five tickets, totalling around £275.

LOCOG has not broken down applications by region. Ticket applications were split approximately equally between London, the wider South-East and the rest of the UK.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the number of tickets for the London 2012 Olympics allocated to disabled people. [63396]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has made no such assessment. The London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) aims to make the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games the most accessible and inclusive possible. As part of this commitment, it has ensured that disabled people have the same level of access to tickets the Games as non-disabled people.

LOCOG integrated its ticketing website to allow visually-impaired people to buy tickets like everyone else, using a screen reader or other assistive technology and without needing to make a phone call. LOCOG is providing a high number of wheelchair spaces (with a free companion seat) at each venue with accessible ticketed seats all around the new venues rather than in segregated areas. Ticket applicants were also enabled to select seats up fewest stairs or at the end of a row.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the arrangements for *(a)* returning tickets for the London 2012 Olympics and *(b)* reselling returned tickets. [63397]

Hugh Robertson: For those that have purchased tickets but are no longer able to use them, the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) will be putting in place an official London 2012 ticket resale programme in 2012 through which tickets can be resold to others at face value. This will be the only authorised way to resell London 2012 tickets.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with sponsors of the London 2012 Olympics on the use of their ticket allocation. [63398]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has had no discussions with sponsors about their tickets. 75% of tickets are available through the UK public application process. Only 8% of tickets are allocated for sponsors and stakeholders to purchase, many of which will be available for their staff or public competitions.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to discuss the arrangements for applying for tickets with the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics. [63399]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, has regular meetings with the London 2012 Organising Committee to be updated about arrangements for the staging of the Games (including ticketing) and will continue to do so.

Olympic Games 2012: Tobacco

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will encourage the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games to request technical support from the World Health Organisation for the implementation of a tobacco-free policy at the London 2012 Olympics. [63024]

Hugh Robertson: Officials in this Department and the Department of Health have discussed our aspiration for a tobacco free games with the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG).

LOCOG will finalise its approach on smoking closer to the time of the games, and will draw on relevant expertise and experience, such as that from previous games.

Public Libraries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to publish guidance to local authorities on local community involvement in the delivery of public library services. [63047]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: On 16 June 2011 I wrote to leaders of local authorities making them aware of a study published by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council on models of local community involvement in the delivery of public library services. The study can be found at the following link:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/policy_development/communities/Community_management_and_community_ownership

Royal Parks: Cycling

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 888W, on the Royal Parks, if he will review the prohibition on cycling in Royal Parks. [62735]

John Penrose: There are no current plans to review the designated cycling facilities in the Royal Parks.

Sport England: Finance

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding Sport England has given to national governing bodies for whole sport plans in each year since 2009. [63305]

Hugh Robertson: Sport England provide funding awards (capital and revenue) for the national governing bodies to support delivery of their 2009-13 Whole Sport Plans. These are set out in the following table:

Financial year	£
2009-10	95,196,616
2010-11	103,521,127
2011-12	97,149,737
2012-13	93,875,509

Television: Licensing

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has considered the merits of exempting Ministry of Defence bases and accommodation from television licensing laws. [63379]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have no plans to change the way in which Ministry of Defence bases and accommodation are covered by television licensing legislation.

Tourism

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's March 2011 publication, Government tourism policy, when he plans to set up the industry taskforce to identify sector specific rules, regulation, inspection and forms holding back the tourism industry. [63049]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The industry taskforce was set up on 21 June under the chairmanship of Alan Parker. Regular updates will be provided to the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, my hon. Friend the Member for Weston-super-Mare (John Penrose), culminating in a full report by the end of the year.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when the Government plans to launch its cross-departmental campaign to market Britain internationally. [63050]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: VisitBritain launched a global television campaign on 20 June, featuring a number of British celebrities, to mark the start of the £100 million international marketing campaign supported by the Government and the private sector. Full details can be found at the following link:

http://www.visitbritain.org/mediaroom/pressreleases/advertlaunch.aspx

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Females

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking in relation to violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [63185]

Mr O'Brien: The UK provides support to victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through our contribution to the UN Humanitarian Pooled Fund, which provides medical care and psycho-social support to thousands of affected people each year. We are also working to make the DRC a safer place for women through a police reform programme which aims to improve the police response to gender violence. The project is being piloted in three provinces and aims to achieve a 30% increase over the next two years in the proportion of women who report feeling safe. The UK Government are also working with the UN peace support mission (MONUSCO) and the Government of the DRC to step up efforts through the security services and justice system to protect women and to end impunity.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63250]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently taking forward the installation of a Biomass Boiler at our East Kilbride site, which should be completed by December 2011. This will reduce our carbon emissions from gas usage at this site by more than 50% as all emissions from the Biomass are carbon neutral. We have already significantly reduced our carbon emissions from gas usage by installing a green roof.

DFID has also worked closely with the Carbon Trust to carry out initial feasibility reports for low carbon technologies such as a wind turbine, solar panels and tri-generation boilers. We are currently working with them to identify appropriate new technologies as part of our long term strategy to minimise the carbon emissions from our estate.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to secure funds to support climate finance after 2014. [63301]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government are committed to helping developing countries carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change and develop in a low carbon way, including reducing emissions from deforestation. The UK is seeking an ambitious legally binding, global deal on climate change, including provisions for the carbon market which will drive funding for low carbon, resilient development. The UK is also working with partners in the G20 to identify long-term sources of climate finance towards meeting the Copenhagen Summit target of providing $100 billion annually from 2020 for developing countries.

The UK is actively taking part in negotiations to design and establish the Green Climate Fund, which was agreed at the Cancun Summit in December 2010.

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to use monies allocated for international climate finance for the Green Climate Fund. [63302]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government believe the Green Fund could make an important contribution to improving the effectiveness and impact of climate finance and serve as one of the key vehicles for delivering scaled-up finance, alongside other bilateral and multilateral channels. Discussions about pledging will not begin until the design process is much further advanced, when we can assess the extent to which the fund will be capable of delivering results and securing value for money.

Developing Countries: Females

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the development results framework contained in *the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan for 2011 to 2013.* [64072]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK has strongly supported the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women, since its creation. UN Women's strategic plan was formally adopted on 30 June 2011. The UK supports the priority areas outlined in the plan. For example, tackling violence against girls and women and increasing women's economic empowerment and leadership will prove vital in improving the lives of millions. We will continue to work closely with UN Women to ensure its work will deliver results to improve the lives of girls and women across the world.

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential effects of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics on the levels of tuberculosis in developing countries. [64147]

Mr O'Brien: The contribution of new drugs and technologies on the levels of tuberculosis (TB) in developing countries could be significant, but there are limitations. While most TB patients can be cured with present drug regimens, the 2050 elimination target is far more likely to be achieved with a combination of improved diagnostics, drugs and vaccines that can detect and treat both latent TB infection and active disease. Recent modelling for the World Health Organisation has suggested that a combination of a neonatal pre-exposure TB vaccine, a two-month treatment regimen effective against drug-susceptible and resistant strains of TB, and a novel point-of-care diagnostic test could potentially reduce the incidence of TB by 71%. There are, however, questions remaining about the effect of these in high HIV prevalent areas.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department provided to research and development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines to diagnose, reduce and prevent tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [64148]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a range of research programmes to promote the development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for tuberculosis (TB). These include: the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Global Alliance for TB Drugs, and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation, Funding amounts for the last five years are provided in the following table.

DFID funding

£

	FIND	*Aeras*	*Global Alliance for TB Drugs*	*Total*
2010-11	500,000	5,500,000	7,313,616	13,313,616
2009-10	1,500,000	4,000,000	5,686,384	11,186,384
2008-09	0	0	3,900,000	3,900,000
2007-08	0	0	900,000	900,000
2006-07	0	0	1,800,000	1,800,000
Total	2,000,000	9,500,000	19,600,000	31,100,000

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the implementation and delivery of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines to diagnose, prevent and treat tuberculosis. [64149]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government are committed to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis (TB) deaths by 2015 through the delivery of the revised Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-15, as highlighted in 'UK aid: Changing lives, delivering results'. In support of this objective, and to help to drive progress towards zero HIV infections and deaths by 2015, scaling up access to TB diagnosis, treatment care and support is a strategic priority in the coalition Government's recently launched 'Towards zero infections: The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world'.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to support the development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines to diagnose, prevent and treat tuberculosis; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such steps. [64150]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a number of product development partnerships to encourage industrial development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for tuberculosis. This includes support to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND); the Global Alliance for TB Drugs; and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. These initiatives are making progress. For instance, FIND has helped develop a new diagnostic for rapid detection of TB ('GeneXpert'). This may help shorten the time to diagnosis and cut transmission, thus preventing new cases in future. FIND is also working on how it can adapt these tools for use in more peripheral settings.

India: Overseas Aid

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that the value of the UK's aid programme in India is recognised by the government of India. [63307]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The British and Indian Governments work in partnership to deliver shared goals on poverty reduction in India and globally. During my visit to India last November several Government Ministers, as well as experts outside Government, confirmed to me that the UK's development co-operation programme is highly valued.

Private Sector Expertise

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve private sector expertise among officials of his Department. [63306]

Mr O'Brien: DFID established a new private sector department at the beginning of January this year. An objective of this new department is to help DFID work more closely with the private sector across a broad range of issues. This will allow DFID to engage more effectively with private enterprise to deliver our objectives more effectively.

We have recruited externally with the aim of attracting individuals from the private sector to work in DFID. We also intend to bring in short-term private sector secondments in order to inject new, business-savvy thinking into DFID to help us capitalise on defined opportunities. We shall also bring together time-limited groups of business men and women to work with us to find creative solutions to development challenges.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of constitutional structures in Afghanistan. [63608]

Mr Hague: The Afghan constitution of January 2004 set out a number of political and judicial structures. The constitution contains provisions to guarantee a separation of powers between these structures.

We have made no formal assessment of this kind, but we work closely with both the Afghan Government and the international community to strengthen political and judicial institutions in Afghanistan. This includes funding training for parliamentarians to provide them with the skills and expertise necessary to play a full role in the legislative process.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the 10 most expensive receptions hosted by his Department were *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas since his appointment; and what the total cost was of each such event. [63023]

Mr Hague: The information for *(a)* is not held in the form requested. However, the most prominent events which Government Hospitality has arranged for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) since May 2010 were as follows. I hosted the diplomatic reception in honour of the official birthday of Her Majesty the Queen which is traditionally held in early June. The 2010 and 2011 receptions were held at a cost of approximately £19,548 and £11,020, compared with a cost of £24,368 in 2009. I hosted a diplomatic reception on the day of the royal wedding at a cost of £12,984. The figures do not include VAT.

I hosted a Christmas reception organised by the FCO for the London diplomatic corps and other contacts which replaced two events held previously. This event at a cost of about £9,823 replaced two events held at a cost of more than £16,000 in the previous year.

All expenditure on business hospitality is incurred in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines and is rigorously scrutinised to ensure value for money and effectiveness.

No central records are held of other receptions hosted across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office or at missions overseas, and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Forced Marriage Unit

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many cases have been dealt with by the Forced Marriage Unit in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* the last 12 months. [63345]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2010, the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support in 1,735 cases involving a possible forced marriage. Of that number, there were 469 cases where the FMU provided active assistance.

(b) From January to June 2011, the FMU gave advice or support in 738 cases involving a possible forced marriage. Of that number, there have been 126 cases where the FMU provided active assistance.

Israel: Religious Freedom

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the ability of each religious community in Israel to *(a)* exercise its faith, *(b)* to observe its (i) holidays and (ii) weekly day of rest and *(c)* administer its internal affairs; and if he will make a statement. [63108]

Alistair Burt: The Government strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief. Our embassy in Tel Aviv routinely raise concerns about freedom of religion or belief with the Israelis.

We have received no evidence of any problems for religious groups within green line Israel. Most of the problems that different religious groups suffer in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories stem from the ongoing occupation and the mutual mistrust that characterises Israeli-Palestinian relations. This is one of the reasons why we lay so much emphasis on resolving the conflict. The only way to resolve the conflict is via the two state solution and we urge both parties to return to negotiations.

Israel's Declaration of Independence guarantees freedom of religion for all Israel's inhabitants. However, we remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement between the west bank and east Jerusalem. It remains difficult for Palestinians to enter east Jerusalem for work, education, medical treatment or religious worship. We have lobbied the Israelis hard on the issue of movement and access.

North Africa: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with his US counterpart on North Africa and the Middle East prior to President Obama's speech on that subject. [60032]

Mr Hague: I have been in regular contact with Secretary Clinton on a range of issues, including the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, before and since President Obama's speech.

Piracy: EU Action

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 618W, when he expects to *(a)* publish and *(b)* implement the EU operational plan to counter piracy. [62970]

Mr Bellingham: It would not be appropriate to publish classified operational plans, nor military tactics for counter-piracy operations.

The amendments to the EU operation plan enabling a range of additional actions to be taken against pirates have entered into force, and will be implemented when military commanders judge they will have the greatest impact on pirate operations.

Prisoners

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens he estimates had been held without trial for more than 12 months in countries that are member states of the Council of Europe in the latest period for which figures are available; and what steps he is taking to expedite the trial or release of such prisoners. [63214]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are unable to estimate the number of British citizens who have been held without trial for more than 12 months in countries that are member states of the Council of Europe. Estimating this figure would prove prohibitively expensive. Supporting British nationals in difficulty around the world is a vital part of the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We will consider approaching the local authorities if the trial of a British national does not follow internationally recognised standards for a fair trial or is unreasonably delayed compared to local cases. This support is explained in our publication "Support for British nationals abroad: A guide".

Somalia: Refugees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the numbers of Somali refugees arriving at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [63418]

Mr Bellingham: According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) there are now more than 394,000 Somali refugees in Kenya and new arrivals have accelerated to 1,300 a day over the last two weeks. Last year the Department for International Development provided £2 million to UNHCR to meet the basic relief needs of 20,000 refugees during 2010 and 2011. We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and have offered further support to UNHCR. Dadaab is heavily congested and the conditions for many new arrivals is unacceptable. The British Government have urged the Government of Kenya, including at ministerial level, to urgently make more space available for the camp population, and will continue to do so.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of access to humanitarian aid for refugees from South Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [63419]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have been asked to reply.

In 2010, Somali refugees were generally able to access an adequate level and quality of basic humanitarian aid in Kenya and Ethiopia, although Dadaab refugee camp

in Kenya had become very congested. However, the increased number of refugees fleeing from South Somalia in 2011 is straining the capacity of the camps, authorities and humanitarian agencies to respond adequately.

The UK Government provided £2 million in Kenya to meet the basic relief needs of 20,000 refugees in 2010-11. In Ethiopia, DFID (with other donors) is providing support to the refugee camps through a pooled humanitarian fund. In 2010-11, the fund provided around £1.5 million for water and nutrition interventions. Given the deteriorating situation, my Department is working with other donors to support humanitarian agencies in scaling up their response and ensure new refugees have greater access to basic services, including water, health, nutrition, food and shelter. We also continue to press the Government of Kenya on the need to allocate more space for refugee camps, and already have an existing and growing programme of humanitarian assistance in the areas of Somalia the refugees are fleeing from.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the renewal of public consultations on the constitutional future of the South Kordofan region in Sudan. [64066]

Mr Bellingham: The African Union High Level Implementation Panel-facilitated talks in Addis Ababa have resulted in framework agreements on Southern Kordofan, Abyei and border monitoring. I commend the parties for coming together and setting this first milestone. However, much more needs to be done. The Framework Agreement on Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile provides for the completion of the popular consultation process that formed a part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, for civilians to take part in consultations and talks on their own future, they must have freedom of movement and speech so they can participate fully and freely. As this is not the case at the moment, I urge all sides to create an environment where public consultations can be frank and without intimidation.

Sudan: Violence

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of violence in the South Kordofan region of Sudan; and what discussions he has had with the UN regarding the protection of residents of the South Kordofan region after 9 July 2011. [64065]

Mr Bellingham: Recent reports suggest that violence is continuing in many parts of Southern Kordofan. There are reports of aerial attacks by Sudanese armed forces; of abuses against civilians carried out by soldiers from both sides; and of civilians being caught up in the violence. The UK condemns the ongoing violence and calls on all parties to cease hostilities immediately. The recent framework agreement on Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile is a step in the right direction but must lead to a ceasefire without delay, so that humanitarian aid can reach those in need, and talks on the future of Southern Kordofan can take place without continuing violence.

We are actively involved in discussions with the UN about its future presence in Sudan and South Sudan. We are encouraging the Government of Sudan to allow the UN mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to remain in Southern Kordofan after 9 July, so that it can continue to protect civilians caught up in the conflict. We are pressing the UN to ensure that, should the Government of Sudan require UNMIS to leave on 9 July, all possible arrangements are made to ensure continuity of humanitarian assistance.

Syria: Politics and Government

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Syrian counterpart allegations of intimidation of protestors outside the Syrian embassy in London. [63090]

Mr Hague: I refer the right hon. Member to my statement to the House on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 964-65.

Syria: Sanctions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sanctions on Syria. [63091]

Mr Hague: The EU restrictive measures impose an asset freeze and travel ban on 30 individuals (including President Assad) and an asset freeze on four entities. They are targeted against those persons responsible for violence and repression against the civilian population in Syria, and their associates. The EU measures also include an arms embargo and restrictions on the supply of equipment which might be used for internal repression. We judge that the sanctions have been effective in targeting key members of the Syrian regime and their associates. These measures will continue to apply so long as the individuals and entities listed continue to meet the criteria.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* role and *(b)* function is of the Independent Tier dealing with individual complaints against work contracted to Atos by his Department; and which organisation carries out the work of the Independent Tier. [63220]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The role of the Independent Tier is to challenge the robustness of Atos Origin Health Care's handling of medical service assessment complaints.

(b) The function of the Independent Tier is an impartial invigilator of Atos Origin Health Care's processes for dealing with medical assessment complaints.

The details of the private company Atos Healthcare appointed to investigate the handling of complaints is not divulged to any third party to ensure continued independence. Atos Origin Health Care are bound by the recommendations of the Independent Tier.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many invoices received by his Department have been paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of the invoices paid late. [62488]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is in the following tables:

Number of invoices paid on time

	5 days	10 days	30 days	Total
2010				
May	61,386	70,476	71,991	72,576
June	55,856	64,773	65,610	66,325
July	57,921	68,335	69,655	70.248
August	47,693	57,503	58,763	59,052
September	57,110	65,497	67,078	67,440
October	59,383	67,377	68,053	68,378
November	62,008	68,970	70,340	70,696
December	52,418	59,721	60,877	61,167
2011				
January	48,416	53,400	54,271	54,538
February	50,131	56,534	58,314	58,634
March	57,630	66,516	67,114	67,444
April	45,973	53,144	53,704	53,986
May	48,611	55,684	56,329	56,618
	704,536	807,930	822,099	827,102

Number of invoices paid late

	5 days	10 days	30 days
2010			
May	11,190	2,100	585
June	10,469	1,552	715
July	12,327	1,913	593
August	11,359	1,549	289
September	10,330	1,943	362
October	8,995	1,001	325
November	8,688	1,726	356
December	8,749	1,446	290
2011			
January	6,122	1,138	267
February	7,270	885	313
March	9,814	928	330
April	8,013	842	282
May	8,007	934	289
Total	121,333	17,957	4,996

Value of late invoices

£

	5 days	10 days	30 days
2010	66,405,464.52	7,716,585.29	3,120,894.75
May	204,880,936.77	164,612,853.74	1,787,253.39
June	252,413,771.22	162,671,803.68	1,403,235.04
July	168,254,486.46	78,253,262.82	3,593,547.37
August	173,877,420.21	73,496,991.25	1,652,027.10
September	110,883,627.38	11,855,081.52	4,024,819.31
October	100,991,782.54	16,464,965.64	1,493,797.90
November	141,874,093.39	77,859,176.08	5,716,211.84
December			
2011			
January	161,895,174.20	77,039,588.26	5,071,085.31
February	90,330,910.76	21,350,902.67	4,629,347.14
March	96,866,380.78	7,962,424.45	1,940,446.36
April	95,647,915.72	12,859,121.08	4,266,330.48
May	113,370,684.34	68,340,672.59	8,532,262.09
Total	1,777,692,648.29	780,483,429.07	47,231,258.08

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63554]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

The percentage of all supplier payments made within five days of receipt of an invoice for the last 12 months are:

	Five days of receipt (percentage)
2010	
June	84
July	82
August	81
September	85
October	87
November	88
December	86
2011	
January	89
February	86
March	85
April	85
May	86

The Department is therefore compliant with the Government's Prompt Payment Code target of 80% within five days of receipt.

The Department for Work and Pensions became a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and set a target to pay 80% of correct invoices within five days of receipt. The Department also monitors payment within 10 days of receipt under the Prompt Payment Code which is as follows:

	10 days of receipt (percentage)
2010	
June	98
July	97
August	97
September	97
October	99
November	98
December	98
2011	
January	98
February	96
March	99
April	98
May	98

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63320]

Chris Grayling: The Department has in place a Carbon Management Plan, developed in conjunction with the Carbon Trust, setting out our plans to reduce our carbon emissions by 25% by 2015.

While we currently have no plans to generate low carbon energy we are engaging with all our suppliers to deliver the aims of this plan including working with our estates private finance initiative partner to deliver ambitious spend-to-save projects across the estate, which make best use of emerging low carbon technologies to reduce our carbon emissions.

For example, a Salix funded Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant was installed at the Department's Quarry House headquarters building in Leeds at the end of 2010. It is fuelled by natural gas and is classified as 'low-carbon' technology. Initial indications are that performance is exceeding the estimated saving of £90,000 and 428tCO_2 a year.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63578]

Chris Grayling: The Ministry of Justice publishes annual reports containing statistical information on freedom of information requests received by monitored bodies, including central Government Departments. The annual report for 2010, including the quarter four summary, was published on 28 April 2011.

This report can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/mojstats/2010%20Annual%20and%20Q4%20FOI%20bulletin%20vfinal.pdf

This report includes statistics on the number of non-routine requests received by this Department in 2010 and the initial outcomes of these requests. All other quarterly reports for 2010 and the annual statistics from 2005 can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or member of the public.

However, the Department holds central records identifying a Member of Parliament as a requester (but not their political party) from 2007 onwards. These figures may not represent all freedom of information requests from Members of Parliament since only those that are clearly stated as being from a Member of Parliament or their researcher are recorded. The figures may include Members of the House of Lords, Members of the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly Members. The figures are in the following table.

FOI requests from MPs

	Number
2007	17
2008	38
2009	75
2010	45
2011 (up to 31 March 2011)	2

Employment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women of working age were employed in (i) full-time jobs and (ii) part-time jobs in (A) each parliamentary constituency and (B) each local authority area in each of the last five years. [64107]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) men and (b) women of working age were employed in (i) full-time jobs and (ii) part-time jobs in (A) each parliamentary constituency and (B) each local authority area in each of the last five years. (064107)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates the number of people employed full-time and part-time for local areas from the Annual Population Survey.

Tables 1 to 8, contain the numbers and proportions of full-time and part-time jobs for men and women in each parliamentary constituency and local authority. Each table contains estimates from January-December 2006 to January-December 2010, which is the latest period available. As the information requested is quite extensive, a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Employment: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 16 and 64 years were not in education, employment or training in Dartford constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [63281]

Chris Grayling: In the year to December 2010 the number of people aged 16-64 in Dartford constituency who were not in education, employment or training averaged around 15,000.

Industrial Health and Safety: Asbestos

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on work-related illnesses caused by asbestos. [63442]

Chris Grayling: The Government take the effect of asbestos on workers' health extremely seriously. The Health and Safety Executive pursue an energetic prevention agenda with regard to asbestos, and the Department for Work and Pensions provide a range of benefits and payments for those with disabling conditions caused by asbestos where payment depends on the circumstances of each case. In addition, the Government continue to

have discussions with stakeholder organisations on options to improve the compensation arrangements for people who have mesothelioma but are unable to obtain payments through their employer's insurance arrangements.

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employers with fewer than two employees have been subject to criminal prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 in each of the last five years. [63803]

Chris Grayling: HSE does not hold prosecution data at this level of detail.

TREASURY

Carbon Emissions: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on an exemption from carbon price support for energy and electricity generators in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [63422]

Justine Greening: An exemption for supplies of fossil fuels made to generators in Northern Ireland would likely be considered a state aid under European law. However, the Government are actively working with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to assess the potential impacts of the carbon price floor on the single electricity market.

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the Valuation Office Agency's policy on assessment of the rateable value of domestic properties. [63222]

Mr Gauke: No such representations have been received. Rateable values are no longer assessed for domestic properties; these are now subject to council tax. Policy responsibility for council tax rests with the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many payments the Valuation Office Agency has *(a)* made and *(b)* approved arising from retrospective reassessment of domestic property valuations for council tax purposes in the latest period for which figures are available. [63244]

Mr Gauke: Payments made by the Valuation Office Agency are ex gratia payments under its complaints code of practice, 'Putting things right for you', in cases where it has caused a serious error or delay in altering the council tax band of a property.

For the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011, the VOA *(a)* made and *(b)* approved payments reflecting lost interest on overpaid council tax in 14 cases.

Domestic Rates: Appeals

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals the Valuation Office Agency has received against domestic rate valuations in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in each of the last 20 years. [63221]

Mr Gauke: The Valuation Office Agency no longer has a role in uses made of domestic rateable values. The council tax valuation lists represent the current system in operation therefore statistics have been provided on these lists.

Tables showing the number of valid proposals and appeals received by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) against the council tax valuation lists in each region and local authority area of England and Wales for all years of the lists have been placed in the Library.

Statistics broken down by parliamentary constituency can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Enterprise Zones

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the trends in gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2011 on his Department's policy on enterprise zones. [54769]

Justine Greening: The Government are working with local enterprise partnerships to maximise the economic impact of enterprise zones by supporting opportunities for real growth identified by local partners. The Government will ensure that an appropriate framework is put in place to measure the impact of enterprise zones.

The costing for the enterprise zones measure is set out at page 20 of the Budget 2011 policy costings, published alongside the Budget:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/2011budget_policycostings.pdf

Chapter 1 of the document explains which effects are included in the policy costings and how the costings fit into the OBR's forecasts.

Freezing Orders: Syria

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what amounts have been seized in the UK under the provisions of the Syria (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 (S.I., 2011, No. 1244); and which financial institution was involved in each case. [63919]

Mr Hoban: The total sum frozen under the Syria (Asset-Freezing) Regulations 2011 is approximately £11 million. The regulations require that funds belonging to designated persons are frozen—they do not provide for the seizure or confiscation of assets.

For reasons of confidentiality, I am unable to disclose the names of the financial institutions involved in each case.

Hydrogen

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that hydrogen is subject to the same fiscal measures as other alternative fuels for road transport. [63541]

Justine Greening: When used in an internal combustion engine as fuel for a road vehicle hydrogen is taxed at the rate for road fuel gases other than natural gas of 31.61 pence per kilogram. Excise duty does not apply when hydrogen is used in a fuel cell to produce electricity to power a road vehicle.

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has given any consideration to changing the interest rate on the UK's bilateral loan to Ireland. [63536]

Mr Hoban: The Government have not received a formal request to reopen the terms of the bilateral loan agreement.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter of 16 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Ruth Todhunter; [64067]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter of 12 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Stephen Pennells. [64068]

Mr Hoban: As the situation remained the same Treasury officials reissued, on 13 June 2011, my 1 December Dear Colleague letters which set out the Government's overall position on the agricultural derivatives market.

Revenue and Customs: Leicester

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance has been issued to staff in the Leicester office of HM Revenue and Customs working in high risk renewals on dealing with self-assessment tax credit claims received by post. [63634]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs has staff in various locations handling high risk tax credits renewal work. Those staff have a bespoke process for reviewing cases that have been triggered through the application of system risk rules. The process enables those staff to determine whether further inquiries are appropriate or if the tax credits award can proceed without further intervention.

It also prescribes the timescales for making those further inquiries and the time given for claimants to respond.

Tax credits compliance guidance is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ccmmanual/index.htm

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the policy of HM Revenue and Customs on fixed penalty charges for late submission of self assessment tax returns arising from bad weather; and if he will make a statement. [62954]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* The purpose of penalties is to encourage taxpayers to meet their obligations and to reassure those who do comply that they will not be disadvantaged by those who do not. If a taxpayer is unable to meet an obligation, such as filing a return by the due date, because of circumstances beyond his control, he can ask HMRC to accept that he has a reasonable excuse for the failure and cancel the penalty.

HMRC has contingency plans to deal with problems that could arise close to filing dates. These plans include consideration of possible wide application of reasonable excuse, if something happens of such seriousness and on such a scale that a large number of taxpayers are prevented from filing their returns on time when they otherwise would have done.

VAT: Technology

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of reducing to five per cent. the rate of VAT charged on voltage optimisation products. [63224]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all taxes under review and considers proposals for new reliefs carefully, but the financial position we inherited means we must give priority to maintaining our fiscal base.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 676W, on asylum: deportation, what the ages were of those people who were removed; how many were part of a family unit; and how many were removed under force. [63679]

Damian Green: Of the 14 removals previously identified the ages of these individuals at time of removal were five, 21, 27, 29, 31, 31, 32, 32, 34, 36, 40, 43, 46, 48.

Two of the above individuals are part of the same family unit i.e. a parent and child under 16, who chose to return voluntarily.

Eight of the above individuals were enforced removals from the United Kingdom.

British Nationality: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Dartford constituency were granted British citizenship in each year since 2005. [63279]

Damian Green: The data requested are shown in the following table:

	Constituency residents granted British citizenship
2005-06	136
2006-07	242
2007-08	197
2008-09	182
2009-10	274
2010-11	297
Grand total	1,328

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

British Nationality: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were granted British citizenship in each year since 2005. [63625]

Damian Green: The data requested are shown in the following table:

	Constituency residents granted British citizenship
2005-06	169
2006-07	167
2007-08	208
2008-09	175
2009-10	261
2010-11	259
Grand total	1,239

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Counter-terrorism: Leicester

Jon Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her Department's Prevent Strategy, what criteria she used to identify Leicester as a priority area. [63639]

James Brokenshire: The revised Prevent strategy introduced a new prioritisation process that no longer relies on simple demographics. The new process aggregates a range of information and policing indicators of terrorist activity to identify the areas where Prevent work is most needed. There are currently 25 priority areas, which include Leicester, and these each receive dedicated resources and support. The designation of an area as a priority will be regularly reviewed by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT).

Demonstrations: Embassies

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of allegations of intimidation of individuals protesting outside the embassy of *(a)* Bahrain and *(b)* Syria. [63079]

Nick Herbert: The policing of demonstrations outside embassies is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). No formal complaints of intimidation of individuals protesting outside the embassy of Bahrain or Syria have been made to the police.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by her Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63561]

Damian Green: For the period from June 2010 to May 2011 the Home Department paid 85% of compliant invoices from small and medium-sized businesses within five working days of receipt of invoice.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63575]

Lynne Featherstone: As a public access regime the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is intended to be applicant blind with regard to the identity or motives of those seeking information from a public body. The Home Office does not require that requestors under the Act provide information as to their organisational or political affiliation and accordingly the information the Member is seeking is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Statistics are available however for the total number of requests received by the Department each year since 2005.

These are set out in the following table.

Freedom of Information requests received by the Home Office 2005-11[1]

	Number of requests received
2005	1,970
2006	2,861
2007	2,269
2008	1,998
2009	2,492
2010	3,069
2011	1,636

[1] Statistics on FOI activity and performance are published quarterly on the Ministry of Justice website.

Note:
Figures for 2011 are for the six months to 29 June only.

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 685-6W, on offenders: foreign nationals, how many foreign national prisoners were removed from the UK in each of the last five years; what each prisoner's country of origin was; which country they were returned to; and what the offences were for which they were imprisoned. [63848]

Damian Green: The following table shows the published figures for number of foreign nationals removed or deported from the UK. Please note that the data for 2006 are not considered to be reliable for publication.

	Number of foreign nationals removed or deported from the UK
2007	4,200
2008	5,400
2009	5,530
2010	5,235

We do not disclose data on those removed to specific countries as it would jeopardise our diplomatic relations.

In 2009 and 2010 the UK Border Agency removed or deported 10,765 foreign national prisoners from the UK. The written updates provided by the chief executive of the UK Border Agency to the Home Affairs Committee confirm that the criminals removed in these two years included almost 120 individuals found guilty of murder, attempted murder or causing death, over 650 sex offenders and around 3,050 drug offenders. Of the drug offenders removed, over 1,650 were convicted of the production or supply of drugs, around 550 were convicted of possession with intent to supply, and around 800 were convicted of the importation of drugs. The remaining individuals had received convictions for a range of more than 70 offences including violent crimes, robbery, fraud and document offences.

Domestic Violence

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of domestic violence offences that are reported to the police. [63695]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The British Crime survey (BCS) provides estimates on the proportion of domestic violence incidents reported to the police. The survey has two measures: one collected in the context of a face-to-face interview and a second based on answers to a self-completion questionnaire.

The measure of domestic violence included in the main BCS relates to any physical assault by a partner or ex-partner, relative or household member. The most recently published figure from the 2009-10 BCS shows that 41% of such incidents were reported to the police. It is known that incidents of domestic violence are under-estimated as some victims may not be willing to disclose their victimisation in the context of a face-to-face interview.

The self-completion module provides more privacy to respondents and is thought to yield greater disclosure by victims. The self-completion section provides a measure of "partner abuse" which is broader and covers physical force, non-physical emotional or financial abuse or threats to hurt the respondent or someone close to them carried out by a current or former partner. The latest estimate from the 2008-09 BCS, shows that 16% of victims of partner abuse reported the incident to the police.

This reporting figure is lower that that for the main domestic violence measure and is thought to partly reflect the wider measure of abuse that it includes. It may also be that victims who are willing to disclose victimisation to an interviewer are more likely to report incidents to the police.

Entry Clearances: Diplomatic Service

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* the Russian Federation, *(b)* Azerbaijan, *(c)* Ukraine, *(d)* Belarus and *(e)* Kazakhstan in the last five years; [63201]

(2) how many staff entered the UK on diplomatic visas for the purpose of undertaking domestic work in embassies in the latest period for which figures are available; [63203]

(3) how many diplomatic visas have been granted for staff at the embassies of *(a)* the United Arab Emirates, *(b)* Syria, *(c)* Bahrain and *(d)* Kenya in the last five years. [63202]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The number of diplomatic visas issued in the last five years to nationals of each of the countries specified by the hon. Member is shown in the following table:

Diplomatic visas issued 2006-10

Nationality	*Visas issued*
Russia	817
Azerbaijan	39
Ukraine	221
Belarus	75
Kazakhstan	197
United Arab Emirates	533
Syria	78
Bahrain	39
Kenya	162

Since the introduction of Tier 5 of the points-based system for temporary workers on 27 November 2008, non-EEA nationals seeking entry as private servants in diplomatic households have been required to apply under the Tier 5 international agreement sub-category. It is not possible to distinguish such applicants from others applying under the international agreement sub-category from central records and the information required could be obtained only by checking individual records at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Workers: EU Nationals

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 861W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, on what date she asked the Migration Advisory Committee to review the labour market case; what the terms of reference of the review are; which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* bodies were invited to respond to the review; for what reason a formal call for evidence was not issued; how the Committee has advertised that it will accept written views from any interested party; what the closing date is for the receipt of written submissions; how the review question was formulated; what her definition is of serious disturbance; how many representations on the review the Committee has received; by whom such representations were made; when she plans to publish the outcomes of the review; and if she will make a statement. [63946]

Damian Green: On 3 June the Secretary of State for the Home Department wrote to the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), asking:

"Is there a serious disturbance, or threat of such a disturbance, to the UK labour market and would maintaining the existing restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' access to the labour market assist in addressing any such disturbance or threat?"

The Government have not prescribed to the MAC how it should carry out the review, who should be invited to respond, or defined what is a serious disturbance of the labour market.

The MAC will set out in its final report what representations it received and from whom. The MAC will submit this report to Government by October 2011 and publish it around the same time.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 861W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what discussions she has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the private sector on the labour market case. [63947]

Damian Green: The Government have asked the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on this issue. Ministers will discuss the labour market case once they have received the MAC's report.

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 861W, on foreign workers: EU nationals, what the current status is of *(a)* Bulgarian and *(b)* Romanian nationals who access the UK job market. [63948]

Damian Green: Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who wish to take up jobs in the UK, and do not fall into an exempt category, must apply to the UK Border Agency for authorisation to work.

Heroin: Misuse

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the potential of naloxone to reduce deaths caused by heroin overdose; and if she will make a statement. [63614]

James Brokenshire: The drug strategy which we published in December 2010 highlighted the importance of reducing drug related deaths. I agreed with the Under-Secretary of State for Health, the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) that the Action Plan for 2011-12 for the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) should include publishing a report into the pilot schemes to train carers and family members to use naloxone to prevent overdose deaths.

Immigrants: English Language

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the tendering process for English language tests for spouses, students and tiers 1 and 2 permit holders was administered by her Department rather than Ofqual. [63662]

Damian Green: Secure English language testing was introduced to ensure that migrants wishing to come to, or remain in, the United Kingdom in certain categories have reached a certain standard in English. The UK Border Agency is responsible for ensuring that the tests taken both in the UK and abroad are secure, properly verified and of an appropriate standard. Ofqual's primary function is limited to the regulation of qualifications and assessments in England and Northern Ireland.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which body is responsible for the regulation of English language test centres for immigrants; and what the length of contract is for each approved test provider. [63712]

Damian Green: The providers of secure English language testing work under licence to the UK Border Agency, and the licences run for a minimum of three years. The UK Border Agency monitors the performance of the providers and will work with them to resolve any issues or concerns. If necessary the UK Border Agency can remove the provider from the approved list.

Immigration

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have immigrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in *(a)* each year since 2009 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [63715]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have immigrated to the UK who were not UK citizens or citizens of another EU member state in (a) Each year since 2009; and (b) Each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available (63715).

The number of non EU citizens who immigrated long term to the UK in 2009 is estimated to be 303,000. Provisional estimates for 2010 will be published on 25 August 2011.

The attached table shows estimates of long-term migration by non-EU citizens for each quarter from Dec 08 to Sept 10. These data are based upon the International Passenger Survey.

These estimates are of numbers of moves each year rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear three times in this table. Short-term migrants (i.e. those entering or leaving the UK for less than twelve months) are not included in the long-term migration estimates.

Long-term international migration estimates from International Passenger Survey: immigration of non EU citizens to the UK 2008 q4 to 2010 q3, United Kingdom

	Estimate	thousand SE (%)
2008 Q4	55	8
2009 Q1	48	8
2009 Q2	46	8
2009 Q3	124	5
2009 Q4	74	6
2010 Q1[1]	65	5
2010 Q2[1]	40	6
2010 Q3[1]	121	1

[1] Data for 2010 are provisional.

Note:

Standard error percentages (SE%) indicate the robustness of each estimate. A migration figure with a standard error of >25% is not considered to be reliable. For any given estimate there is a 95% probability that the true figure lies in the range; estimate +/- 0.0196 x estimate x standard error %.

Knives: Crime

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have received funding from her Department for the purpose of preventing knife crime since January 2011. [61784]

Mrs May *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* In 2010-11 the Home Office made funding available to 143 voluntary and community organisations working to prevent young people's involvement in knife and gun crime. The Home Office also provided funding to the Prince's Trust who gave out 67 awards through the Ben Kinsella Fund in 2010-11.

In 2011-12 the Home Office will be making funding available to voluntary and community organisations working to prevent young people's involvement in knife and gun crime though the Communities Against Gangs, Guns and Knives Fund. Money is also being made available to the Prince's Trust fund to continue the Ben Kinsella Fund.

Metropolitan Police: Civilians

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of civilianisation in the Metropolitan Police Service. [63191]

Nick Herbert: The mix of police officers and staff and how they are deployed are matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

National Crime Agency

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the budget of the National Crime Agency in its first year of operation. [62698]

Mrs May *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The National Crime Agency Plan includes an estimate of the resources needed.

Organised Crime: British Nationality

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had *(a)* their citizenship removed and *(b)* an application for citizenship refused by the UK Border Agency following a request from the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63719]

Damian Green: Annual statistics on citizenship applications (including refusals) are available on the Home Office website.

Section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 which relates to deprivation of British citizenship, came into force on 16 June 2006. The following statistics refer to all non conducive deprivation cases:

In 2006 an order was issued against one individual.

In 2007 an order was issued against one individual.

In 2008 no orders were issued.

In 2009 orders were issued against two individuals.

In 2010 orders were issued against five individuals.

To date, orders have been issued against four individuals in 2011.

This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Police

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the additional time available for police officers to work as a result of reducing administrative requirements during the comprehensive spending review period. [63454]

Nick Herbert: This Government are clear that police should be focusing on police work and not paperwork. That is why on 9 May 2011 I announced a new package of policies that will cut police red tape and save up to 2.5 million police hours per year, the equivalent of 1,200 officer posts.

Police: Accountability

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what submissions her Department received to its consultation on Police and Crime Commissioners which indicated support for her policy. [61961]

Mrs May *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The 'Policing in the 21st century: reconnecting police and the people Summary of consultation responses and next steps' document listed all respondents. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Policing and Crime Act 2009

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were under Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 to date. [63218]

Lynne Featherstone: Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 added Section 53A(1) to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which came into force in April 2010.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons proceeded against and found guilty at all courts, under Section 53A(1) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales in 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2011 will be available in the spring of 2012.

Data on arrests under the Act are not collected centrally as reported information is not broken down to the level of detail required.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts, under Section 53A[1] of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, England and Wales, 2010[2,3]

	Number
Proceeded against	49
Found guilty	43

[1] Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 added Section 53A(1) to the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Came into force on 1 April 2010.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Sexual Offences

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to monitor repeat sex offenders who have been returned to the UK from overseas as a result of their UK citizenship. [63551]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* Where an individual (whether they be a UK citizen or a foreign national) has been convicted or cautioned for a sexual offence committed overseas the police can apply

to the magistrates court to obtain a notification order in order to protect the public in the UK from any risk that they pose. Police may apply to the court for the order in relation to offenders living in, or intending to come to, the UK.

A notification order will require an offender to comply with the notification requirements as set out within Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 as if they had been convicted for an equivalent offence in the UK, including notifying their personal details to the police and notification of travel outside of the UK.

Breach of a notification order carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

Stay Safe Campaign

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will *(a)* examine and *(b)* consider the wider application of the Stay Safe campaign in Redditch. [63232]

Nick Herbert: The Stay Safe campaign in Redditch is run by West Mercia police. As a local initiative it is for local partners to examine and consider its use.

Terrorism: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the letter of 8 February 2011 from the then Minister of State for Security and Counter Terrorism to the Home Affairs Select Committee, what proportion of the individuals being investigated on suspicion of involvement in terrorism-related activity are foreign nationals; and how many such people have been granted or are seeking asylum or other forms of international protection. [63476]

James Brokenshire: I have nothing further to add to the letters of 8 February 2011 and 28 March 2011 from my noble Friend, the then Minister of State for Crime and Security to the Home Affairs Select Committee.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter of 18 May 2011 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent, reference M1200891. [61589]

Damian Green *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The acting chief executive replied to the hon. Member on 21 June 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Charity Commission: Manpower

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the potential effect of changes in staff numbers at the Charity Commission's office in Liverpool on the Commission's ability to deal with fraud. [64190]

Mr Hurd: The Charity Commission has confirmed that, following the restructuring in all four of its offices, not just Liverpool, its core role will be to continue to protect the public interest in the integrity of charity and thereby underpin and enhance public trust and confidence in charities. This includes taking appropriate action to deal with fraud and malpractice which it takes extremely seriously. As a risk-based regulator, the Commission will continue to intervene decisively in individual cases where the identified risk to public confidence is substantial and where it can have most impact. I am confident that the Commission can continue to be an effective regulator of charities in England and Wales within the resources allocated it.

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he is participating in volunteering schemes sponsored by his Department as part of the Big Society initiative. [42131]

Mr Hurd: All Government Ministers have pledged to undertake a 'one day challenge' with a charity or community group of their choosing. This is a clear and public commitment by Ministers to give their time to help others. The pledge aims to inspire others to consider how they might be able to support their communities to benefit themselves, as well as their chosen organisations.

EDUCATION

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many contracts his Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62727]

Tim Loughton: There has been one main contract awarded to Capita since May 2010 which is for the managed delivery of the Teachers Pension Scheme. The contract is for seven years and was awarded to Capita on 24 March 2011 following a competitive procurement. It has a monetary value of £89.362 million for the period. The net present value of the contract is £80 million.

Further Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps his Department is taking to remove barriers to education for young people aged between 16 and 19 years who are not engaged with the education system; and if he will make a statement. [64054]

Tim Loughton: Attainment at age 16 is the most important factor in determining later participation in education and training. We have set out reforms to pre-16 education in the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' focused on raising attainment and preventing low achievement becoming an ongoing barrier to participation and success.

There is a strong link between disadvantage and young people's likelihood of participating post-16 and the Pupil Premium will give schools extra funding to spend on interventions that support the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. For those young people facing financial barriers to education post-16, we have introduced

a £180 million bursary scheme for 16 to 19-year-olds to provide better targeted financial support to those who need it.

Local authorities have duties to provide sufficient suitable education and training places for young people aged 16 to 19, track their participation and provide targeted support to all those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to help them to re-engage. Local authorities will know best what type of support is needed to address the particular barriers that young people face in their area, and we are funding this through the Early Intervention Grant.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children in each local authority area were *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* in receipt of free school meals in (i) 1997, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011; and if he will make a statement. [62749]

Mr Gibb: Information on the number of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals as at January 2011 is published in tables 11a, 11b and 11c of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics, January 2011' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Information for January 2010 is published in tables 11a, 11b and 11c of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Information for January 2009 is published in tables 11a, 11b and 11c of the Statistical First Release 'Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2009' available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

Information for January 1997 has been placed in the House Libraries.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what types of helicopter mission were flown in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011 to date. [61086]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held in the format requested.

Helicopters are used in a wide variety of roles including movement of forces, re-supply, convoy overwatch, helicopter escort, reconnaissance and surveillance, battlefield communications, medical evacuation, close air support and strike operations.

Defence Business Services Organisation: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of people who will be employed by his Department's Defence Business Services in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales in 2014. [63070]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not at this stage have estimates of the number of people who will be employed by the Defence Business Services in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales in 2014.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63322]

Mr Robathan: Low carbon energy is already generated on the defence estate utilising a number of technologies. These include biomass boilers, ground and air source heat pumps, solar photo voltaic panels, solar heating and small wind turbines.

The Ministry of Defence will continue to exploit opportunities to generate low carbon energy on the defence estate where this is compatible with defence activities, environmental constraints and value for money in terms of cost and carbon emissions reductions.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges his Department issued to recipients resident in London in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63530]

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Veterans' badges were issued by his Department in Dartford constituency in the last year for which figures are available. [63286]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is not held in the format required to identify how many veterans' lapel badges have been issued in a specific area or region.

As at 31 May 2011, however, 836,659 veterans' lapel badges have been recorded as being issued to former members of the armed forces and entitled dependants.

Gulf States: Royal Military Academy

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 40W, on Gulf States: Royal Military Academy, how many officer cadets from each of the states bordering the Arabian Gulf are in training at the Academy. [63082]

Nick Harvey: The breakdown of officer cadets currently attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from those states bordering the Arabian Gulf is as follows:

	Number
Bahrain	2
Iraq	2
Kuwait	3
Oman	6
Qatar	1
Saudi Arabia	3
UAE	8

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has agreed the required legal and security arrangements with the US to enable deep maintenance of the Joint Combat Aircraft to take place in the UK. [63073]

Peter Luff: The UK's ability to undertake deep maintenance, repair and upgrade of its Joint Combat Aircraft fleet in the UK is a fundamental element of our operational sovereignty requirement, which has been secured through a US/UK bilateral supplement to the Joint Strike Fighter Memorandum of Understand signed by Ministers in December 2006.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at which Royal Air Force base the Joint Combat Aircraft will conduct field carrier landing practice. [63309]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been taken to determine from which Royal Air Force base the Joint Combat Aircraft will conduct its field carrier landing practice.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel are based in accommodation in *(a)* Gioia del Colle, *(b)* Trapani, *(c)* Poggio Renatico and *(d)* Naples, Italy as part of Operation Ellamy. [62966]

Nick Harvey: The numbers of service personnel deployed to the main locations in Italy as at 29 June 2011 in support of Operation Ellamy are given in the following table.

	Number of service personnel[1]
Gioia del Colle, Italy	550
Trapani, Italy	150
Poggio Renatico, Italy	50
Naples, Italy	100

[1] Rounded to the nearest 50 personnel.

The precise number of personnel overseas fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many airframe hours have been flown in RAF *(a)* Typhoon and *(b)* Tornado jets since the commencement of military operations over Libya. [63061]

Nick Harvey: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Military Aircraft

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilotless drones the Army possesses; and how many are deployed in conflict zones. [62830]

Nick Harvey: The Army currently possesses 310 remotely operated aircraft.

I am withholding information on how many are deployed in conflict zones as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the life expectancy in airframe hours is of *(a)* a RAF Typhoon and *(b)* a RAF Tornado jet. [63060]

Peter Luff: The fatigue life of the RAF Typhoon fleet is 6,000 flying hours per airframe which is sufficient to meet the planned out of service date (OSD) of 2030.

The fatigue life of the RAF Tornado GR4 fleet is 7,000 flying hours per airframe, with a small number cleared to 7,500 flying hours. Fatigue testing is taking place with the expectation of verifying an increased fatigue life of 8,000 flying hours which would be sufficient to meet the planned OSD of 2021.

NATO

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items have been procured through NATO's Maintenance and Supply Agency in the last 10 years; what the cost was of such items to the public purse; and which other countries shared in the contracts. [62103]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NATO: Public Appointments

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who represents the UK on the board of NATO's Maintenance and Supply Agency. [62102]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The UK is represented on the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency Board of Directors by the Head of Defence Logistic Operations at the Ministry of Defence.

Reserve Forces

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the review of reserve forces will be published. [63213]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1344W.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which officials are working on his Department's continuous review of the strategic defence and security review. [63272]

Dr Fox: Progress against the commitments made in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) are being driven by the Second Permanent Secretary and the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff as part of the transforming Defence programme. Delivery of the SDSR

is one of the Ministry of Defence's main priorities encompassing a large number of programmes and initiatives with civilian and military posts across the Department involved in its implementation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 558W, on affordable housing, what the name is of each incentive available to registered providers to ensure that more *(a)* new and *(b)* existing housing stock is provided for low-paid working people under the Affordable Homes programme for 2011 to 2014; and if he will make a statement. [63217]

Grant Shapps: We invited offers from registered providers for funding from the Affordable Homes programme in February 2011, making clear that offers could consist of a variety of products as set out in the framework for the programme. Providers have submitted their offers to the Homes and Communities Agency who are currently assessing them.

We are giving housing associations much more flexibility on rents and use of assets, so our aspiration is to deliver as many homes as possible through our investment and reforms.

Biofuels: Accidents

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the number of *(a)* fires and *(b)* explosions caused by the production of biodiesel in the latest period for which figures are available. [63308]

Robert Neill: Detailed records of incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services since April 2009 are held centrally. These records provide no indication of any fires or explosions caused by biodiesel since April 2009.

Council Tax: Overpayments

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the monetary value of unclaimed *(a)* council tax payments and *(b)* lost interest on council tax payments on domestic properties which had their value reassessed retrospectively in the latest period for which figures are available. [63236]

Robert Neill: While the Department for Communities and Local Government publishes statistics on the amount of uncollected council tax, we do not collect information on the amounts of lost interest on council tax payments on domestic properties that had their value reassessed retrospectively.

Council Tax: Rates and Rating

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Valuation Office Agency uses to differentiate between domestic and non-domestic properties. [63226]

Robert Neill: The definition of domestic property used by the Valuation Office Agency is prescribed in Section 66 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. A property not meeting the criteria set out in Section 66 is considered non-domestic.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has any plans to generate low-carbon energy from its estate. [63249]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government will increasingly look to low carbon energy generation as a means of reducing its carbon emissions in the coming years. However, having reviewed the feasibility of installing on-site renewables on a number of its buildings, the Department found there was a range of more cost-effective options still available.

The Department will continue to review its carbon reduction strategy to ensure that it is reducing its own emissions in line with the greening Government commitments in the most cost-efficient manner.

In the last 12 months, a range of measures have been introduced to improve energy efficiency, leading to a £300,000 saving on the annual energy bill of the Department.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63585]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or member of the public.

Information about the numbers of requests for information this Department, or its predecessor Department, received and considered under the Freedom of Information Act is as follows:

	Requests
2005	917
2006	665
2007	556
2008	704
2009	840
2010	938

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies on its website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

Departmental Internet

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on websites other than direct.gov and communities.gov.uk in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what the (i) URL, (ii) setup costs and (iii) running costs were of each website. [61051]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 20 June 2011]:* The following sites are currently in operation by the Department:

Info4local

www.info4local.gov.uk

The annual running costs for info4local are included in the costs of running the Department's website. These costs are fixed and the Department is contractually committed to all elements of the budget

In 2008-09, the Department paid £446,124 for annual hosting charges, licensing, application support and maintenance and development across intranet, corporate site and info4local. In 2009-10, this figure was £445,169.

Planning Portal

www.planningportal.gov.uk

In 2008-09, the Department paid £4,986,469 for the Portal service. This included staff costs, the Portal website and sales and marketing activity in support of e-planning.

In 2009-10 the Department paid £8,482,287, for the Portal service, this included rebuilding the Portal website, sales and marketing activity in support of e-planning and staff.

Intra Govt Geographical Info (closing July 2011)

www.iggi.gov.uk

In 2008-09, the Department paid £12,551 for annual hosting charges, licensing, application support and maintenance and development.

In 2009-10, the Department paid £3,641.

Data for Neighbourhood Renewal

www.data4nr.net

In 2008-09, the Department paid £37,000 for initial set up costs.

Annual hosting charges, licensing, application support and maintenance for 2008-09 and 2009-10 were £9,996 a year.

Websites closed by the Department

The following table displays the websites closed during 2008-09 and 2009-10. For all closed websites the set-up and running costs were not required to be kept centrally. All sub-domains of the direct.gov and communities.gov.uk are not reflected in this answer.

Site name	*URL*	*Closed during*
Exploring Innovation	www.exploringinnovation.org.uk/	2008-09
Thames Gateway	www.thamesgateway.gov.uk/	2008-09
Best Value Performance Indicators	www.bvpi.gov.uk	2008-09
Neighbourhood renewal unit	www.neighbourhood.gov.uk	2008-09
Supporting people knowledge website	www.spkweb.org.uk	2009-10
Local government pensions	www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com	2009-10
Cleaner safer greener	www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk	2008-09
Firekills	www.firekills.gov.uk	2008-09
Firelink	www.firelink.org.uk	2008-09
National land use database	www.nlud.org	2009-10
Supporting people directory	www.spdirectory.org.uk	2008-09
Local directgov	www.localdirect.gov.uk	2009-10
Fire gateway	www.fire.gov.uk	2009-10
Tesa project	www.tesaproject.co.uk/	2009-10
Be-Utd	www.be-utd.org/	2010-11
FRS Online	www.frsonline.fire.gov.uk	2008-09

Enterprise Zones

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government Department's officials will be responsible for assessing the second wave of Enterprise Zone bids. [63482]

Robert Neill: Officials from my own Department, together with officials from Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will be responsible for assessing the second wave of Enterprise Zone bids. Officials from other Departments will also be asked to input into the assessment as necessary.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a shortlist of second wave Enterprise Zone bids will be prepared on a regional basis. [63483]

Robert Neill: We have no plans to prepare a shortlist of second wave Enterprise Zones on a regional basis.

Local enterprise partnerships are a better reflection of England's economic geography than the arbitrary Government regions.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set between the deadline for bids for the second wave of enterprise zones and the announcement of successful applicants. [63484]

Robert Neill: The closing date for the receipt of bids was 30 June 2011 and we intend to announce the winning bids this summer.

European Regional Development Fund

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations in receipt of funding from the European regional development fund have been required to make financial corrections for breaches of the rules of the fund in respect of publicity; what the name is of each project in respect of which a breach was identified; what the monetary value of each such project was; what the nature of the breach was; and what financial penalty or correction was imposed. [61794]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* The information provided is for English programmes only; programmes in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are managed by the devolved Administrations.

It is important that taxpayers' money is spent properly, and there are audits and checks on programmes funded from the public purse.

We have to operate existing ERDF programmes according to the regulations. However, the Government believe that the regulations should be focused on ensuring that ERDF meets its objective of promoting economic competitiveness. We will be arguing strongly with the Commission that in the next programme, penalties for things that do not contribute to this objective, such as failing to publicise the programme, should be swept away.

The irony of the museum housing the Labour party's archives being fined for not flying the EU flag should not be lost on hon. Members.

Breaches of ERDF European Commission Publicity Regulations

2000-06 ERDF Programme

There are no data available for programmes before 2000. The details requested for the 2000-06 ERDF programmes are provided in the following table.

Organisation	*Project title*	*Project value (£)*	*ERDF grant (£)*	*Irregularity (£)*	*Details*
Advantage West Midlands (Regional Development Agency)	Marketing the Region	3,736,855	1,683,280	201,801	This project was to fund publicity material to promote the West Midlands to tourists and inward investors. In approx 2003 the then marketing consultants for AWM took the decision not to use the EU logo on the material to avoid having a confused brand image. They were unaware of the requirements of ERDF on publicity. This error was identified 2 years later, at which point AWM voluntarily withdrew this ERDF expenditure and repaid it.
Birmingham Chamber of Commerce	PROF-IT	2,847,080	729,900	77,609	A corporate event run by the former Business Link Birmingham and Solihull, which was part funded by ERDF. Corporate branding was used for the event rather than any acknowledgement of the ERDF contribution. Therefore a flat rate penalty of 10% imposed and £77,609 was repaid.
Peterborough YMCA	YMCA Red Triangle	340,709.18	170,354.59	1,325.00	Failure to display ERDF logo and include on publicity material. The amount of ineligible ERDF was borne by Peterborough City Council.
North Tyneside Council	Refurbishment of Whitley Bay Playhouse	3,561,621	626,489	16,450	As a result of an audit inspection it was found that there were a number of failings in the management of this project, of which the lack of publicity was one. As these failings contravened the terms of the ERDF letter an irregularity was raised and the council has repaid in full.
One North East	International Trade and Support Services	1,485,909	594,364	28,497	As a result of an audit inspection it was found that there were a number of failings in the management of this project, of which the lack of publicity was one. As these failings contravened the ERDF regulations the RDA repaid £28,497.

2007-13 ERDF Programme

For the 2007-13 ERDF Programme the following financial corrections have been made.

	Project name (Regional ERDF Programme)	*Monetary value of the project (£)*	*Nature of the breach*	*Financial penalty or correction (£)*
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Inclusive Enterprise (Yorkshire and Humber)	8,000,000	Failure to appropriately advertise ERDF support during radio advert	5,250
University of Northampton	Modelling and Visualisation Centre (East Midlands)	8,628,858	The project did not have the required billboard up in time (8 week period)	56,477.70
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	South Black Country SUD Package (West Midlands)	202,000	Failure to acknowledge ERDF Programme in text or display logos in job adverts	5,046
The National Museum of Labour History	Peoples History Museum (North West)	756,300	No logo on billboard	7,223
North West Vision and Media	NW Vision and Media Cluster Development (North West)	2,716,950	Marketing materials without logo	12,005
Merseytravel	James Street Underground Station (North West)	1,700,000	Insufficient publicity at project start	13,600
The Merseyside Partnership	Partners for Tourism (North West)	11.947,934	Use of incorrect logo	5,492.50
Business Link	Business Link Brokerage Service (North West)	3,270,695	Job Advertisement without ERDF logo	5,296.47

Falck EMS UK

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department last met representatives of Falck EMS UK Ltd; what subjects were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [63784]

Robert Neill: I have not met with representatives of Falck EMS UK Ltd. Officials in my Department had an informal meeting with a representative of Falck EMS UK Ltd in March 2011 as part of discussions with a number of organisations about the Fire Service College.

Fire Service College

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications for firefighter training of the potential sale of the Fire Service College to the private sector. [63779]

Robert Neill: The Government response to the "Fire Futures Report", published on 12 April 2011, recognised that the provision of high quality training and development for fire and rescue service staff was vital to ensure that the service could respond effectively to the needs of their local communities and to major incidents.

The response also acknowledged the strong value of a national college for fire and rescue service training, but explained that we believed that the Fire Service College could achieve its full potential only if there was greater involvement from other sectors (whether private, public or voluntary) in its ownership, operation and governance. We therefore undertook to explore with the sector and other organisations options to secure the future of the college.

We are still at the early stages of those considerations, which will of course take account of training and development requirements for fire and rescue service staff.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 apply to the transfer of Fire Service College staff to the private sector; and if he will ensure that the revised version of the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector 2000 is applied to any transfer of such staff within the public sector. [63780]

Robert Neill: The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 is a matter of employment law. The Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector 2000 is applied to all public sector transfers as a matter of established practice.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing levels were of the Fire Service College in each year since 2001. [63782]

Robert Neill: The following figures are taken from the Fire Service College's annual accounts:

	Staff (FTE)[1]	*Staff costs (£000)*
2000-01	236	6,993
2001-02	249	6,987
2002-03	253	7,942
2003-04	292	9,879
2004-05	313	11,255
2005-06	309	10,756
2006-07	273	11,078
2007-08	266	11,115
2008-09	248	11,503
2009-10	239	11,469

[1] Full-time equivalent.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which higher education establishments *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* elsewhere have formal links with the Fire Service College. [63783]

Robert Neill: The Fire Service College has formal links with the following higher education establishments:

Ashridge Business School

Coventry University

University of Central Lancashire

Warwick Business School.

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he is taking to maintain national resilience during reductions in fire service budgets; [63063]

(2) what statutory requirements there are for fire authorities to contribute to national resilience. [63064]

Robert Neill: The setting of fire authority budgets and service delivery are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, not by central Government.

As 'Category One Responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, fire and rescue services are required to plan for serious incidents in their areas such as those identified in the national risk assessment and consequent national planning assumptions. In addition, the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires authorities to enter into 'Reinforcement Schemes' with other authorities to provide mutual assistance in responding to a serious emergency.

The national framework sets out the Government's expectations for the fire service, and this includes their contribution to national resilience.

Fire Services: AssetCo

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the likely financial cost to *(a)* London Fire Brigade and *(b)* Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service of AssetCo entering administration; [63785]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential *(a)* cost to and *(b)* organisational changes for (i) London Fire Brigade and (ii) Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service arising from AssetCo's receipt of a creditor's petition; [63786]

(3) how many *(a)* fire appliances and *(b)* other items of equipment (i) London Fire Brigade and (ii) Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service lease from AssetCo under the terms of existing contracts; and how long each contract is; [63787]

(4) when he last met officials from *(a)* London Fire Brigade and *(b)* Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service to discuss the terms of their contracts with AssetCo; [63788]

(5) whether he has met with representatives of AssetCo to discuss the terms of that company's contracts with *(a)* London Fire Brigade and *(b)* Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service; and when the last such meeting took place. [63789]

Robert Neill: Sharing back office functions and improving procurement are key ways that fire and rescue authorities can deliver sensible savings, while protecting the quality and breadth of frontline services offered to their communities.

While each fire and rescue authority is responsible for their own policy on procurement, they should constantly search for the best value for money in delivering their services. Outsourcing the provision of capital equipment can be one such way, provided the precise terms and conditions of the contract represent value for money in the long-term. The terms of these contracts, and the implications of any service failure, are a matter for the individual fire and rescue authorities themselves. Contact has been made with London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority regarding AssetCo, and reassurance obtained that they are able to meet their statutory duties and ensure a continued service to the public irrespective of AssetCo's particular financial circumstances.

Fire Services: Finance

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the potential effects on levels of fire safety of changes to *(a)* fire service fire prevention budgets and *(b)* fire service fire reduction programmes. [63229]

Robert Neill: The setting of fire authority budgets and service delivery are a local matter, with delivery determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, not by central Government. As such, no assessment has been made.

I also refer the hon. Member to my letter to him of 6 December 2010, a copy of which is also in the Library of the House, which outlines how fire and rescue authorities can make sensible savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities.

Fire Services: Manpower

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the minimum number of firefighters that the fire and rescue service requires to be employed nationally at any one time in order to fulfil its statutory duties. [63796]

Robert Neill: It is for individual Fire and Rescue Authorities to determine appropriate levels of emergency cover, taking account of analysis of risk locally, as part of integrated risk management planning.

No formal estimate of firefighter levels required nationally by fire and rescue services is made by central Government.

Fire Services: Pay

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of the fire and rescue service earn less than £21,000 per year; and whether such employees are eligible for the £250 pay increase in each year of the comprehensive spending review period for public sector employees earning less than £21,000 per year. [63766]

Robert Neill: Information about numbers of employees in the fire and rescue service by specific pay levels is not held centrally. The pay of fire and rescue service employees is a matter for fire and rescue authorities as the employers. Ministers are not party to those negotiations.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Chief Fire Officers Association on pay negotiations in the fire and rescue service. [63767]

Robert Neill: I have regular meetings with the trade unions and the Chief Fire Officers Association. While I have not had any discussions about pay negotiations, when pay matters have been raised with me, I have made it clear that pay is the responsibility of the fire and rescue authorities as the employers and not this Department.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the fire service pay settlement for 2011-12 on staff *(a)* retention and *(b)* morale; and what the pay bands for that year are for (i) whole-time, (ii) retained and (iii) control staff. [63768]

Robert Neill: Pay is a matter for fire and rescue authorities as the employers. As such it is for them, and not this Department, to assess the impact of pay settlements.

The pay bands for whole-time, retained and control staff, as at the last pay increase agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services on 1 July 2009, are set out in the following tables:

(i) Whole-time

Role	*Basic annual salary (£)*
Firefighter	21,157 to 28,199
Crew manager	29,971 to 31,263
Watch manager	31,940 to 34,961
Station manager	36,365 to 40,109
Group manager	41,881 to 46,428
Area manager	49,167 to 53,934

(ii) Retained duty (on call)

Role	*Full annual retainer*	*£ Basic hourly rate*
Firefighter	2,116 to 2,821	9.66 to 12.88
Crew manager	2,998 to 3,127	13.69 to 14.28
Watch manager	3,193 to 3,496	14.58 to 15.96
Station manager	3,637 to 4,012	16.60 to 18.31
Group manager	4,189 to 4,643	19.12 to 21.20
Area manager	4,917 to 5,394	22.45 to 24.63

(iii) Control staff

Role	*Basic annual salary (£)*
Firefighter	20,099 to 26,790
Crew manager	28,472 to 29,700
Watch manager	30,345 to 33,211
Station manager	34,547 to 38,104
Group manager	39,788 to 44,108

The pay rates above include Trainee, Development and Competent for Firefighters, Development and Competent for Crew Managers and Development, Competent A and Competent B for all other roles.[1]

[1] *Source:*

Local Government Group.

Fire Services: Procurement

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of fire service procurement; and if he will make a statement. [63228]

Robert Neill: Firebuy Ltd, which helped deliver procurement efficiencies and collaboration for local fire and rescue authorities in England through nationally negotiated contracts, is closing in summer 2011 as part of the Government review of arm's length bodies. It was not a function that needed to be undertaken by central Government.

All of Firebuy's procurement functions have been transferred to alternative organisations. The 17 framework contracts were formally novated to Wiltshire county council with The Consortium for Purchasing and Distribution Ltd managing these on Wiltshire's behalf. This ensures that there is continuity of the existing arrangements. Fire and rescue authorities have been encouraged to continue to use these contracts to maintain the benefits of collaborative procurement though procurement is a matter for them to decide on based on their operational requirements.

Procurement arrangements have also been considered as part of the consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England. The fire sector is best placed to develop procurement models that ensure standards are adopted where necessary, so that the benefits of interoperability and collaborative procurement can be realised.

Fire Services: Standards

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to facilitate the sharing of best operational practice in responding to *(a)* local and *(b)* national emergencies between fire and rescue services. [63790]

Robert Neill: The Government's expectation was laid out in the national framework (2008-11) where fire authorities must:

"Have in place systematic arrangements to ensure incident and safety event outcomes inform the ongoing development of safe systems of work and training and development of staff. This should include the sharing of risk critical information on a regional/national basis when appropriate."

For national emergencies that directly or indirectly involve fire and rescue services the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework provides a live mechanism to support and advise local decision makers in affected areas. This arrangement has been provided by a partnership between the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and the Chief Fire Officers Association.

The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser has responsibility for the production of national operational guidance for the Fire and Rescue Service. Systems are in place to gather information from operational incidents to determine and refresh such guidance where appropriate.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress he has made in developing a National Framework document for the Fire and Rescue Service;

when he expects to produce a draft document; and what recent meetings he has had with officials in his Department to discuss this matter. [63791]

Robert Neill: Work on the next Fire and Rescue Service National Framework is under way, and a National Framework Partner Working Group will be meeting shortly. I expect the draft National Framework will be out for public consultation later in the year. I meet regularly with my officials in the course of business.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his policies on localism on the development of a National Framework document for the Fire and Rescue Service. [63792]

Robert Neill: Localism will be reflected in the development of the National Framework. I expect there to be a public consultation on the draft National Framework later in the year.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his policies on localism on the capacity of fire and rescue services to discharge their statutory duties. [63793]

Robert Neill: The provisions in the Localism Bill, currently going through Parliament, were subject to impact assessments. These assessments were published by my Department in January and placed in the Library of the House following introduction.

For fire and rescue authorities the proposed legislation will provide additional freedoms and flexibilities. These are enabling powers, intended to enhance the capacity of the fire and rescue service in discharging their statutory duties.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 10, on fire and rescue services, whether the integrated resource management plan places a requirement on fire authorities to plan for *(a)* risk and *(b)* cost; and if he will make a statement. [63797]

Robert Neill: The reference in *Hansard* dated 20 June 2011 should have been to local authorities' integrated risk management plans, not integrated resource management plans.

The Government are committed to enabling local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level. Fire and rescue authorities are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an integrated risk management plan which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. Each fire and rescue authority's plan enables that individual authority to decide how best to provide fire and rescue-related services, including prevention and protection as well as response, with resources being allocated on the basis of the evaluation of risk and where the risks are greatest.

Local requirements are thus determined by local people according to local circumstances.

Fire Services: Surveys

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made in surveying fire and rescue authorities' budgetary plans for 2012-13; whether he plans to publish the findings of the survey; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the survey. [63795]

Robert Neill: The Department has not surveyed fire and rescue authorities' budgetary plans and has no plans to do so.

Fire Services: Training

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the privatisation of firefighter training. [63781]

Robert Neill: Firefighter training is a matter for fire and rescue authorities as they are the employers. It is for them to decide the appropriate training provision.

Hedges

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on matters relating to high hedges; and whether he plans to review that guidance. [63412]

Robert Neill: There is guidance on matters relating to high hedges on my Department's website. As with other guidance, we will continue to keep this under review.

Homelessness

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment the cross-departmental Homelessness Working Group has made of the effects of the implementation of the big society initiative on the provision of local services for homeless people. [63892]

Grant Shapps: My ministerial colleagues and I are well aware of the significant contribution made by volunteers up and down the country in supporting the voluntary and community sector and other agencies to help vulnerable people. Their contribution is integral in ensuring they receive the appropriate support they need to enhance their well-being.

This Government take homelessness very seriously. We are maintaining investment in homelessness grant at £100 million a year for each of the next four years to support local authorities and the voluntary sector in their work to prevent homelessness. We have also secured £6.5 billion investment for Supporting People over the next four years.

In addition, I established a cross-Government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness to address the complex causes of homelessness and improve support for homeless people. The first report from the Ministerial Working Group will be published on 6 July and will be available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/

The report sets out the Government's intention to roll out 'No Second Night Out' nationally, the approach being taken by the Mayor of London to quickly identify new rough sleepers. To deliver the pledge and ensure

that the voluntary sector continues to play a central role in tackling rough sleeping, I have also announced a new £20 million Homelessness Transition Fund to be administered by Homeless Link. The report includes commitments from Government Departments, local government and voluntary sector partners to end rough sleeping and help ensure that nobody spends a second night sleeping rough on Britain's streets.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's guidance for Government Departments on the New Burdens Doctrine, how the guidance is to be applied to the reduction in the financial settlement for local authorities in 2012-13; and whether such guidance is to apply to additional powers sought by local authorities or provided for in the Localism Bill. [63298]

Robert Neill: The provisional Local Government Finance settlement for 2012-13 fully reflects at national level transfers of function and new burdens. The spending review delivered a challenging but fair settlement for local government. Reductions are matched by a radical reform programme that gives councils unprecedented freedoms and flexibilities and far more control over their budgets.

In broad terms, the 'New Burdens Doctrine: Guidance for Departments' applies in all cases where central Government require local authorities to undertake a new activity that incurs additional costs.

Local Government: Social Enterprises

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to encourage local authorities to award service contracts to social enterprises. [62741]

Robert Neill: Procurement in local government is a matter for local discretion but Government are committed to encouraging a more open and level playing field for small and medium enterprises and the voluntary and community sector to bid for contracts. In February, the Prime Minister launched a new, free-to-use, online Contracts Finder portal and a simplified pre-qualification questionnaire to make it easier and cheaper for small and medium enterprises and the voluntary and community sector to bid for public sector opportunities.

DCLG has also recently consulted on new statutory guidance on Best Value (the consultation closed on 14 June). It makes clear that councils need to avoid making disproportionate reductions to the voluntary and community sector and sets out what voluntary and community organisations should expect from working with local government.

Local Government: Translation Services

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of the provision of translation of information about their services from English into other languages. [63832]

Andrew Stunell: I have made no estimate of the cost of translation to local authorities. This information is not held centrally.

Public Sector: Pensions

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely effects of *(a)* the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, *(b)* changes to the annual uprating of public sector pensions, *(c)* a 3.2 per cent. increase in employee contributions to public sector pension schemes and *(d)* a 2.5 per cent. increase in VAT on staff (i) retention and (ii) morale in the fire and rescue service; and when he last discussed fire service (A) pensions and (B) pay with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [63765]

Robert Neill: The Government intend to respond to the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's recommendations later in the year. Scheme specific discussions will develop the appropriate reforms to the firefighters' pension schemes, in full consultation with the Firefighters' Pension Committee and other sector partners.

Discussions are proceeding with the Trades Union Congress and trade unions to establish the principles to apply to new levels of employee contributions in public service pension schemes from 1 April 2012. The Government are committed to protecting low earners, ensuring that any changes will be sustainable and progressive, and remaining fair to both public sector workers and to the taxpayer.

The Department meets employer and trade union representatives at the Firefighters' Pensions Committee and elsewhere to discuss pension reforms, their interaction with pay and work force issues and their impact on the fire service.

I and my fellow Ministers meet regularly with colleagues from Her Majesty's Treasury to discuss a range of matters.

Regional Growth Fund

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from representatives of local enterprise partnerships on the application process for the Regional Growth Fund. [59474]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 13 June 2011]:* Local enterprise partnerships may submit bids that meet the regional growth fund objective:

> 'to stimulate private sector investment by providing support for projects that offer significant potential for long term economic growth and the creation of additional sustainable private sector jobs'.

Departmental officials have worked closely with local enterprise partnerships to encourage high quality regional growth fund bids.

All bids will be judged on their own merits.

Rented Housing

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of shared rooms available in *(a)* London, *(b)* Leeds, *(c)* Manchester, *(d)* Liverpool and *(e)* Birmingham in the (i) social housing and (ii) private rented sector in the most recent year for which figures are available. [63333]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not hold this information.

Social Rented Housing

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance his Department is providing for the re-housing of residents who are under-occupying their homes. [63840]

Andrew Stunell: This Department has allocated £13 million over the next four years to help local authorities support under-occupying social tenants who wish to move, as well as funding an action team within the Chartered Institute of Housing to work with all social landlords to help them promote moves.

We are also making it easier for landlords to address under-occupation by increasing mobility, through changes to the allocation rules contained in the Localism Bill and the introduction of a national home swap scheme.

Social Services: Finance

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the potential effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on the provision of social care services by local authorities. [62466]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* Ministers within the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly meet colleagues from the Department of Health to discuss a range of matters.

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on social care spending by local authorities. [62467]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* In recognition of the importance of social care in communities throughout the country, the Government are giving local authorities significantly greater freedom and control over budgets to be able to move resources to priority services. This includes rolling more than £2 billion of social care resources, including an additional £1 billion on top of existing grants by 2014-15, and £1.6 billion of Supporting People funding into formula grant.

Further funding, totalling £800 million in 2011-12 and rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, has been allocated within the NHS to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. The new NHS Operating Framework sets out specific primary care trust allocations that transfer to councils for spending on social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain.

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of reductions to local authority budgets on social care services. [62797]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* In recognition of the importance of social care in communities throughout the country, the Government are giving local authorities significantly greater freedom and control over budgets to be able to move resources to priority services. This includes rolling more than £2 billion of social care resources, including an additional £1 billion on top of existing grants by 2014-15, and £1.6 billion of Supporting People funding into formula grant.

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Travellers: Caravan Sites

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with chief executives and officials of local authorities on the role of regional cooperation in planning for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites. [62754]

Robert Neill: As is routinely the case with all policy development, Ministers and officials have had discussions with a range of people with an interest in planning policy for Traveller sites while drafting their proposed policy. This has included local authority officials and Members. Many of these discussions have covered joint working between local authorities on provision of Traveller sites.

We published our draft new planning policy for Traveller sites for public consultation on 13 April and Members, and local authorities, are welcome to submit their views.

Travelling People: Regional Planning and Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has devised mechanisms to replace the function of regional spatial strategies for the purposes of ensuring regional co-operation in planning for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites; and if he will make a statement. [63617]

Robert Neill: We are introducing a duty to co-operate through the Localism Bill to ensure that local authorities continue to work together after regional strategies are abolished. This will require local planning authorities, county councils and other public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in the planning process.

The duty will apply to the preparation of policies on strategic matters in local plans. It will also apply to activities that support the preparation of these policies.

Local authorities will be required to demonstrate compliance with the duty to co-operate as part of the examination of local plans. If an authority cannot demonstrate that they have complied with the duty, their local plan will not pass the independent examination.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

West Lothian Question

9. **Harriett Baldwin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent representations he has received on the establishment of a commission on the West Lothian question. [63495]

Mr Harper: I have received a number of such representations from Members of the House of Commons on both their own behalf and that of constituents.

Act of Settlement

11. **Mr Reid:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with Commonwealth Governments on reform of the Act of Settlement. [63497]

Mr Harper: Both my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have made it clear that they think Government should look at the rules which allow younger sons to inherit the Throne over their elder sisters. But this is a complex issue and not one which the UK can proceed with unilaterally. Discussions are continuing with the other Commonwealth countries who would be affected but it would not be appropriate to reveal the details.

Prisoner Enfranchisement

12. **Mr Kevan Jones:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals on the enfranchisement of prisoners. [63498]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

Recall of Members of Parliament

13. **Ian Murray:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to enable the recall of hon. Members. [63499]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall Members of Parliament where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing. We plan to publish our proposals in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny.

City Status Competition

14. **Mr Amess:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what process he plans to follow to assess entries to the diamond jubilee city status competition. [63500]

Mr Harper: The process of assessing the entries will begin shortly. Careful consideration will be given to all applications, after which Ministers will formally provide their advice to Her Majesty, as such honours are awarded under the royal prerogative. The results are expected to be announced early in 2012.

Departmental Staff

15. **Mr Spellar:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff were employed in his office on *(a)* 5 July 2010 and *(b)* the most recent date for which figures are available. [63501][1]

The Deputy Prime Minister: There were 14 members of staff employed in my private office on 31 July 2010. The precise figures for 5 July 2010 are not available. There were 17 members of staff employed in my private office on 30 June 2011.

1. *[Official Report, 14 July 2011, Vol. 531, c. 5-6MC.]*

Electoral Commission

Chris Ruane: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the methodologies used by the Electoral Commission for the collection of data as set out in the First Report, 2011, HC 916, from the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, on Reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General. [63364]

Mr Harper: Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (Schedule 1, paragraph 16) the Comptroller and Auditor General has the responsibility for carrying out an examination into the economy, efficiency and/or effectiveness with which the Electoral Commission have used their resources in discharging their functions.

The First Report, 2011, from the Speaker's Committee welcomed the National Audit Office report on the Electoral Commission's spending to support the running of elections. The National Audit Office assessed the effectiveness of the methodologies used by the Electoral Commission for the collection of data and set out its conclusions in the report. The Speaker's Committee noted those areas in which the Comptroller and Auditor General recommends further development and will keep its recommendations under review. The Government believe that it is important that all public bodies provide best value for money and will look at any recommendations for changes.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister with which Ministers he has discussed prisoner voting rights since 10 February 2011. [62928]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what consideration he is giving to the decision of the House reached in Division No. 199 on 10 February 2011, *Official Report*, columns 584-6, on formulating his response to the ruling by the European Court of Human Rights on prisoner voting rights. [63979]

Mr Harper: The Government are considering the next steps and will inform the House when decisions on the way forward have been reached.

TRANSPORT

A46

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which sections of the A46 are classified as trunk road; and what responsibility the Highways Agency has for the *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* improvement of such sections. [64085]

Mike Penning: The A46 runs from the outskirts of Bath in Somerset to near Grimsby in North-East Lincolnshire. The trunk road sections are from the A57 Carholme Roundabout near Lincoln to Junction 21a of the M1 near Leicester; Junction 2 of the M6 near

Coventry to Junction 9 of the M5 in Gloucestershire; and Junction 18 of the M4 east of Bristol to its junction with the A4 near Bath.

The Secretary of State for Transport is the highway and traffic authority for the Strategic Road Network of England. As an Executive Agency of the Department for Transport, the Highways Agency's responsibilities for maintaining and improving the Strategic Road Network are defined in the Highways Act 1980.

A46: Lincoln

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has for improvements to the A46 *(a)* within and *(b)* bordering Lincoln constituency. [64080][1]

Mike Penning: Within the Lincoln constituency, the Highways Agency is responsible for the stretch of the A46 between the A1434 Hykeham Roundabout and the A57 Carholme Roundabout. Beyond Carholme Roundabout, the A46 is the responsibility of Lincolnshire county council.

The only improvement currently programmed on this section is adjacent to the A46 at Teal Park. The site between Whisby Roundabout and Hykeham Roundabout is being jointly developed by Lincoln city council and Lincolnshire county council. It will necessitate improvements to the A46 to accommodate the anticipated increase in traffic. The development is due for completion in July 2012.

Biggin Hill Airport: Olympic Games 2012

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the adequacy of the surface access strategy of Biggin Hill airport to handle traffic arising from any time-limited waiver to the terms of its lease with Bromley council during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [62925]

Mrs Villiers: That would be a matter for agreement between the airport and the local authority.

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution his Department expects Biggin Hill airport to make in meeting demand for air travel during the London 2012 Olympics. [62927]

Mrs Villiers: Studies commissioned by the Department for Transport suggest that large numbers of additional private aircraft flights can be expected during the Games period, and that both airport and airspace capacity across south-east England will be in high demand, especially during peak periods. Biggin Hill airport, along with a number of other airports across the south-east, is expected to play an important part in accommodating this additional demand.

Bus Services: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of recent trends in the level of bus services in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent. [63282]

Norman Baker: The latest information on bus statistics in Great Britain can be found on the Department website at the following address:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/bus/index.html

The charts found at the following addresses may be of particular interest:

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/worksheets/bus0103.xls

http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/worksheets/bus0109.xls

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of *(a)* Stratford, *(b)* Ebbsfleet and *(c)* Ashford of the High Speed 1 rail line. [62600]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State has not made any recent economic assessment of the High Speed one rail line in respect of Stratford, Ebbsfleet and Ashford. However, London and Continental Railways had commissioned an independent study carried out by Colin Buchanan and Voleterra on the economic impact of HS1 in 2009. A web link of the final copy of the report can be found at:

http://www.colinbuchanan.com/uploads/cms/files/147e7dfc-2a53-4267-83d7-72bdde92062e.pdf

In addition, cost-benefit ratios were also calculated during the construction stages of the project using the methodology of the time. Information on these is available in National Audit Office reports dated 28 March 2001 and 21 July 2005. Both reports are available from the NAO.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Freight

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of ordinary freight trains using the channel tunnel with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Commission of 30 March 2011 that ordinary freight trains should meet the provisions of Article 7.4.1 of the Technical Specification for Interoperability: Safety in Rail Tunnels. [62609]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has not made an assessment of the compliance of ordinary freight trains using the channel tunnel since no additional requirements are necessary for Technical Specification for Interoperability-conforming freight wagons to be used in the channel tunnel.

The UK and French Governments notified, on 5 January 2009, a number of existing technical compatibility and safety requirements for both passenger and freight trains for the channel tunnel under article 7.4.1, which pre-date the introduction of the Technical Specification for Interoperability: Safety in Railway Tunnels.

That notification was subject to a Technical Opinion from the European Railway Agency delivered in July 2010. The UK and French Governments' response to that opinion included a commitment to develop these rules and the Intergovernmental Commission is currently progressing that project. A consultation on the specific requirements of freight trains has recently been completed as part of this ongoing work.

1. *[Official Report, 5 September 2011, Vol. 532, c. 1-2MC.]*

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation were for those affected in each case. [60326]

Norman Baker: Between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 the Department for Transport made the statutory instruments listed in the following table.

Costs and benefits, concluding with a net benefit figure, have been provided only for those measures where an impact assessment has been produced. They are total figures (transitional and annual average).

Not included in the table are temporary and local instruments, 157 of which were made by the Department in March, 64 in April and 135 in May. Of these, 324 were temporary local highways orders, 29 were temporary local flying orders, two were local highways orders and one was a local railway order. Further information about these temporary and local orders could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Title	*SI Number*	*Date of making*	*Estimated costs and benefits of implementation (as reported in the impact assessments)*
The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Trading Fund (Revocation) Order 2011	630	2 March 2011	An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the business or voluntary sectors or on citizens is foreseen.
The Air Navigation(Dangerous Goods) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	650	3 March 2011	No cost data available. No impact assessment produced for this measure.
The Aerodromes(Designation) (Detention and Sale of Aircraft) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Order 2011	832	16 March 2011	An impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as there are no costs or benefits to business.
The Airport Byelaws (Designation) Order 2011	828	16 March 2011	An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no impact on the costs of business.
The M1 Motorway (Junctions 25 to 28) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2011	909	23 March 2011	Total costs £24.1 million. Total benefits £50.8 million. Total net benefit £26.7 million (2002 price base, 2008 present value, 30 years appraisal period).
The Road Traffic Exemptions (Special Forces) (Variation and Amendment) Regulations 2011	935	23 March 2011	An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.
The Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	974	28 March 2011	An impact assessment of the effect of these Regulations has not been prepared as they do not themselves have any impact on the cost of business.
The Road Vehicles(Powers to Stop) Regulations 2011	996	29 March 2011	Total costs £0.59 million. Total benefits £2.88 million. Total net benefit £2.30 million (2010 present value, 2010 price base, 10 years appraisal).
The M1 Motorway (Junctions 6A to 10) (Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2011	1015	30 March 2011	Total costs £13.8 million. Total benefits £53.6 million. Total net benefit £39.8 million. (2008 prices, 2008 present value, 30 years appraisal period).
The Traffic Signs (Amendment) Regulations and General Directions 2011	1040	30 March 2011	The impact assessment does not present any monetised costs or benefits.
The Road Safety Act 2006 (Commencement No.7) Order 2011	1119	12 April 2011	See entry below.
The Motor Vehicles (Insurance Requirements) (Immobilisation, Removal And Disposal) Regulations 2011	1120	12 April 2011	Total costs £78 million. Total benefits £380 million. Total net benefits £302 million. (2010 present value, 2010 price base, nine years appraisal period). These costs and benefits cover both the Road Safety Act 2006 (Commencement No. 7) Order 2011 and the Motor Vehicles (Insurance Requirements) (Immobilisation, Removal And Disposal) Regulations 2011. Since the implementation of the measure the total transition costs have been £8.47 million and the annual recurring costs have been revised to £4.4 million over nine years.
The Mandatory Travel Concession (England) Regulations 2011	1121	13 April 2011	Total costs £0.03 million. Total benefits £0.68 million. Total net benefits £0.65 million. (2010 present value and 2010 base price, 10 years appraisal period).
The Tractor etc (EC Type-Approval) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	1279	16 May 2011	A full impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on the costs of business or the voluntary sector.
The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2011	1307	23 May 2011	Total costs £2.74 million. Total benefits £2.57 million. Total net benefits—£0.17 million (2010 present value and 2010 base price, 10 years appraisal period).
The Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) Harbour Revision Order 2011	1347	26 May 2011	A full regulatory assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no significant impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

Gatwick Express Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from train operating companies on the use of the Class 460 Gatwick Express electrical multiple units which had been expected to be without an operator from 22 May 2011. [61255]

Mrs Villiers: Southern Railway continues to operate a number of Class 460 electric multiple units beyond the previously intended end date.

The use of these units, once they are no longer needed on this route, is a matter for the rolling stock company to agree with train operating companies.

InterCity West Coast: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions he has met representatives of the Rail Freight Group to discuss the InterCity West Coast franchise; and what provision for rail freight he has made in the invitation to tender for the InterCity West Coast franchise. [62385]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport has not met representatives of the Rail Freight Group to discuss the InterCity West Coast franchise. The draft Invitation to Tender for the InterCity West Coast franchise contains a specification for passenger train services based on track access rights granted by the Office of Rail Regulation. The Office of Rail Regulation also grant freight operators track access rights and takes the interests of all operators into account in deciding on track access applications.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of transferring the Intercity West Coast franchise to Directly Operated Railways. [62386]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is currently in commercial negotiations in relation to the operation of the InterCity West Coast franchise from 1 April to 9 December 2012. Contingency plans and costs for any possible transfer of the franchise to Directly Operated Railways are therefore commercially confidential.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on preparing the invitation to tender for the InterCity West Coast franchise; and what the cost to the Department is of moving the start date for the franchise to 1 January 2013. [62608]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has spent £206,000 to date (April 2011) on technical and legal advice in the preparation of the draft Invitation to Tender for the InterCity West Coast franchise. The Department is currently in commercial negotiations to secure interim operations for the InterCity West Coast franchise from 1 April to 9 December 2012 (the planned start date of the new franchise). Any anticipated costs from moving the start date are therefore commercially confidential.

The West Coast franchise agreement gives the Department the option to extend the contract by 28 weeks (or seven railway periods). However, negotiations are taking place to secure a slightly longer extension (for nine railway periods, or 36 weeks) so that preparations for the new franchise do not have to take place during the Olympics.

Large Goods Vehicles

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicles in each weight category are recorded on the most recent vehicle registration database. [62381]

Mike Penning: The following table gives the number of heavy goods vehicles registered in Great Britain that were either licensed or with a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) as at 31 March 2011.

Gross weight (tonnes)	*Licensed*	*With a SORN*	*Total*
3.5t to under 7.5t	88,477	18,508	106,985
7.5t to under 17t	131,974	16,628	148,602
17t to under 25t	65,715	7,402	73,117
25t to under 33t	76,632	6,916	83,548
33t or greater	105,196	10,857	116,053
Total	467,994	60,311	528,305

These figures will differ slightly to statistics produced by the Department on road freight. This is because there are some vehicles registered as heavy goods vehicles that do not carry freight, including, for instance, cranes, cement mixers and some vehicles used in the building trade. These vehicles are excluded from the road freight surveys.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of uninsured drivers in Winchester constituency. [63409]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not hold any information on the number of uninsured drivers in the Winchester constituency.

The estimated number of uninsured vehicles in Great Britain is 1.4 million (4% of vehicles).

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has considered the merits of introducing a requirement of a mandatory insurance disc for motor vehicles. [63410]

Mike Penning: The merits of an insurance windscreen disc have been considered. However, it would only show that the vehicle was insured at the point the disc was issued and not prove that it was continuously insured.

The continuous insurance enforcement scheme introduced in June allows us to identify uninsured vehicles by comparing existing information held on record, and take action, without relying on spotting the vehicle on the road.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has any plans to bring forward proposals to review the MOT test scheme. [63414]

Mike Penning: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 17 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 141W, to the hon. Member for Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the failure rate was for candidates taking the driving test for the first time in each driving test centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [63434]

Mike Penning: A table providing information on the failure rates for candidates taking the driving test for the first time, in each driving test centre, in the financial year 2010-11 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motorways: Death

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many deaths have occurred on motorways in each year since 1981; [63778]

(2) what the causes were of fatal automobile accidents on motorways in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [63820]

Mike Penning: The number of fatalities as a result of reported personal injury road accidents on motorways in Great Britain since 1981 is shown on Table 1.

The time series on road accident fatalities since 1981 may not be a true like-for-like comparison due to growth in motorway length and associated growth in traffic. The motorway length in Great Britain increased from 2,647 km in 1981 to 3,560 km in 2010.

It is not possible to identify the cause of road accidents from data collected through STATS19. However, the Department for Transport collects statistics on contributory factors in accidents reported by the attending police officer. The reported contributory factors for fatal road accidents on motorways in Great Britain for 2005 to 2009 are shown on Table 2.

Contributory factor data for 2010 will be available at the end of September 2011.

Table 1: Reported fatalities in personal injury accidents on motorways[1]—GB—1981-2010

	Number of fatalities
1981	223
1982	206
1983	187
1984	211
1985	241
1986	248
1967	283
1988	242
1989	233
1990	229
1991	234
1992	238
2993	201
1994	157
1995	180
1996	165
1997	191
1998	174
1999	202
2000	189
2001	203
2002	224
2003	217
2004	164
2005	204
2006	187
2007	183
2008	158
2009	132
2010	118

Table 2: Contributory factors—Reported fatal road accidents[1] on motorways[2]—GB 2005-09

	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
Contributory factors reported[3] in fatal accidents on motorways	*Number*	*%[4]*	*Number*	*%[4]*	*Number*	*%[4]*	*Number*	*%[4]*	*Number*	*%[4]*
Loss of control	57	37	62	41	42	30	45	36	38	37
Fatigue	24	15	24	16	20	14	17	14	19	18
Travelling too fast for conditions	23	15	19	13	13	9	11	9	11	11
Exceeding speed limit	22	14	14	9	11	8	7	6	9	9
Failed to look properly	21	13	14	9	17	12	17	14	14	14
Failed to judge other person's path or speed	18	12	19	13	24	17	20	16	10	10
Poor turn or manoeuvre	18	12	13	9	6	4	5	4	7	7
Careless, reckless or in a hurry	16	10	12	8	12	9	13	10	10	10
Swerved	15	10	16	11	16	11	15	12	8	8
Impaired by alcohol	14	9	12	8	7	5	9	7	10	10
Other	12	8	13	9	11	8	8	6	12	12
Dangerous action in carriageway (eg, playing) by pedestrians	9	6	6	4	11	8	7	6	6	6
Following too close	9	6	12	8	6	4	3	2	6	6
Slippery road (due to weather)	7.	4	7	5	6	4	6	5	9	9
Illness or disability, mental or physical	5	3	8	5	13	9	6	5	10	10
Total number of accidents	156	100	152	100	140	100	125	100	103	100

[1] Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.
[2] Includes motorway and A(M) roads.
[3] Includes only the ten most frequently reported contributory factors for each year. Factors not shown may also have been reported.
[4] Columns may not add up to 100% as accidents can have more than one contributory factor.

National Express East Coast

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* legal advice and *(b)* consultation on the National Express franchise since May 2010. [61502]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 22 June 2011]:* Since May 2010 we have entered into an agreement for external

legal advice to be provided in relation to the National Express East Anglia contract to a maximum value of £30,000. The Department has not carried out a public consultation in relation to this franchise.

Railways: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on work in respect of train operating companies and the rail franchises they currently hold or for which they are bidding since May 2010; and what estimate he has made of likely further expenditure in the remainder of the comprehensive spending review period. [61393]

Mrs Villiers: The Department does not hold the information in the form requested. Data on all external departmental spending, including those in connection with rail franchises are published regularly on the Department's website at

www.dft.gov.uk/transparency

In addition to this spending, the Department employs a number of staff to manage and advise on train operating companies and rail franchising as part of their duties. The Department does not maintain records of the internal costs associated with rail franchising or rail contact management as a separate line item in its overall staff cost base.

Railways: Franchises

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings to the public purse he estimates will arise from the letting of longer rail franchises. [62465]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The Secretary of State does not publish estimated costs of franchises as they are subject to commercial competitions.

Railways: Passengers

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to Network Rail's Route Utilisation Strategy, what plans his Department has to make provision for projected increases in passenger numbers to Birmingham up to 2020. [62387]

Mrs Villiers: 106 new Pendolino vehicles will be introduced on the Intercity West Coast franchise during the next 18 months and negotiations are currently taking place with London Midland regarding the additional capacity to be provided in the period up to 2014 on local services.

Our plans beyond 2014 will be set out in 2012 and will take account of the Initial Industry Plan the rail industry intends to publish later this year.

Railways: Pennines

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 545W, on railways: rolling stock, whether the carriages for Trans Pennine Express are new or cascaded. [61315]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport's intention is that the trains referred to in this answer operating on the Manchester-Scotland services will be new trains, although this is subject to reaching an acceptable commercial agreement with the parties concerned.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has received any representations on the effects of the renewable transport fuel obligation on the sustainable biodiesel industry; [62838]

(2) whether he has considered the merits of extending the price differential for the sustainable biodiesel sector as a transitional measure in implementing the renewable transport fuel obligation; [62839]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the effects of the renewable transport fuel obligation on the sustainable biodiesel industry; [62840]

(4) what steps he plans to take to provide stability for the sustainable biodiesel industry after the end of the duty differential; [62854]

(5) what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of the 20 pence duty differential for biodiesel to meeting the UK's renewable energy targets. [62842]

Norman Baker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W, to the hon. Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce), by my right hon. Friend my hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), for the Government's position on the duty differential.

Department for Transport Ministers have received representations from the sustainable biodiesel industry and officials meet regularly with a number of organisations to discuss a range of transport matters including the operation of the RTFO.

As part of the Government's measures to address climate change, the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) ensures a growing proportion of UK road transport fuels are from sustainable renewable sources. The RTFO includes a certificate trading mechanism to increase efficiency of compliance. The value of individual renewable transport fuel certificates is determined by the market and depends upon the relative cost of supplying biofuel and fossil fuels. We continue to monitor and report on the impact of the RTFO and consider that to date the RTFO has met its objective of driving a market for renewable transport fuels in the UK.

We are currently considering responses to a consultation proposing amendments to the RTFO to implement the transport elements of the renewable energy directive. These proposals include providing twice the financial support to waste-derived biofuels as will be provided to conventional biofuels, through the award of two renewable transport certificates per litre of waste-derived biofuel. Crop-derived biofuels will continue to receive one certificate per litre and no support will be awarded to biofuels that do not meet required sustainability standards.

There is no plan to have the 20p duty differential for used cooking oil-derived biodiesel in 2020. However, research undertaken on behalf of the Department of

Energy and Climate Change suggests that there is a potential UK-sourced used cooking oil resource of around 250,000 tonnes per year. If all of this resource were to be used as biodiesel in the transport sector, this would contribute roughly 10% of the effort required to meet the renewable energy directive transport sector sub-target.

Rescue Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many sea rescues from each coastguard station took place in each of the last three years. [63425]

Mike Penning: Although no specific category of "sea rescues" is recorded, a detailed breakdown of the type of incident co-ordinated by each maritime rescue co-ordination centre in the years 2006-10 is available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/mca/mcga07-home/shipsandcargoes/consultations/mcga-consultations-archive/hm_coastguard_proposals_for_modernisation_consultation_2010/statistics_requested.htm

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account his Department took of the number of rescues made from each lifeboat station operated by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in drawing up its proposals for the future of coastguard stations; and if he will make a statement. [63529]

Mike Penning: The consultation document published on 16 December 2010 proposes the re-organisation of how HM Coastguard delivers the co-ordination of civil maritime search and rescue (SAR) in the UK. As these proposals do not affect the day to day operational interface with partners such as the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), it was not appropriate for RNLI launches to have been a factor in their detailed development. These proposals envisage a national SAR co-ordination network which will enable Coastguards to co-ordinate incidents around the UK from any location.

The RNLI is one of the key partners of Her Majesty's Coastguard and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency will continue to work in the closest co-operation with them to provide an excellent service dedicated to the saving of life at sea.

Roads: Accidents

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have died due to dangerous driving incidents since 2009; and if he will make a statement. [63288]

Mike Penning: The number of deaths in reported road accidents, attributed to a driver convicted of dangerous driving, is not held by the Department for Transport.

However, the Department publishes statistics on reported road accidents in Great Britain, where driver behaviour or inexperience were reported as contributing factors to the accident by the attending police officer. The latest available statistics on fatalities occurring in such accidents can be found in Table 4h (Article 4, pages 58-59) of Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of the House and a link is as follows:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/227755/rrcgb2009.pdf

Roads: Safety

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what date he has set for the inaugural Road Safety Day; and how much funding he plans to allocate to publicise it. [61270]

Mike Penning: Road Safety Day is still under consideration and no decisions have been made. However, the Department will be considering how best to undertake this with other complementary initiatives next year.

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he estimates the private sector will contribute to the THINK! road safety advertising campaign over the course of the comprehensive spending review period; and which private sector companies have agreed to provide funding to date. [61271]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not receive cash sponsorship but we do receive 'in kind' support from a range of organisations linking with the THINK! road safety campaign. This summer, Britvic is supporting THINK! Driver Friendly activity tackling drink driving and Infinity Motorcycles is supporting the motorcycle safety campaign. We have not finalised plans with other partners.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department provides on interoperability when procuring rolling stock. [62606]

Mrs Villiers: Authorisation by the Office of Rail Regulation is required before new rolling stock can be introduced on to the network. In order to obtain this authorisation rolling stock must comply with technical standards as set out in Technical Specifications for Interoperability and notified national technical rules. If requested, the Department provides advice on a case by case basis to rolling stock projects about the possible scope for derogations from standards.

Thameslink

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the announcement of the preferred bidder for Thameslink was not made in line with the target in his Department's Departmental Plan. [58627]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The announcement of a preferred bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock has required careful consideration to ensure that the taxpayer receives best value for money and that the new trains are deliverable to support the overall Thameslink programme.

Train Operating Companies

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates he has met representatives of each train operating company since May 2010. [61394]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport, the right hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), and his ministerial team regularly meet with train operating companies'. Details of formal meetings can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/ministerial-transparency/#meetings

This list does not include additional informal contacts with train operators, for example at conferences, stakeholder events etc.

Transport: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to set cost-reduction targets in the High Level Output Specification/Statement of Public Funds Available process. [61269]

Mrs Villiers: No decisions have been taken on the format of the 2012 High Level Output Specification, the Statement of Public Funds Available, nor therefore on any cost reduction target. When taken, decisions will take full account of Sir Roy McNulty's recommendations on delivering potential savings.

HEALTH

Aortic Aneurysm: Screening

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many men screened under the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme were subsequently referred for treatment since its inception; [63292]

(2) whether his Department has assessed the merits of including indicators on abdominal aortic aneurysm in the Quality and Outcomes Framework; [63293]

(3) what proportion of men offered screening under the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme were subsequently screened in each programme area in each year since its inception. [63294]

Mr Simon Burns: Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening is not a direct responsibility for general practitioners, therefore there is no merit in including abdominal aortic aneurysm screening within the Quality and Outcomes Framework, however the screening programme remains a priority and is included within the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework for England.

Since the introduction of the NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme in 2009, approximately 60,000 men aged 65 and over have been screened by the national programme and around 150 men have been referred to vascular surgeons.

The following table shows the proportion of men who were screened in their 65th year after being invited by their local programme during each of the national programme's first two years of screening:

Programme	*Year*	*Uptake (% of men offered screening who were tested)*
Gloucestershire	2009-10	92
Leicestershire	2009-10	79
South Manchester	2009-10	77
South Devon and Exeter	2009-10	85
South West London	2009-10	73
West Sussex	2009-10	82
Gloucestershire	2010-11	80
Heart of England	2010-11	80
Leicestershire	2010-11	72
Greater Manchester	2010-11	67
North Central London	2010-11	54
Peninsula	2010-11	67
South Devon and Exeter	2010-11	79
South West London	2010-11	68
West Sussex	2010-11	79

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to report on the treatment of very rare cancers; and if he will make a statement. [63945]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published a number of pieces of guidance on the treatment of less common cancers. Further guidance relating to less common cancers is in development.

Information on NICE's guidance on cancers is available at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/Topic/Cancer

Dental Services

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the participation in the General Dental Council of the Chief Dental Officer in his official capacity; and if he will make a statement. [63235]

Mr Simon Burns: Meetings of the General Dental Council are undertaken in public and the Chief Dental Officer attends meetings as an observer. There are clear benefits in ensuring an effective dialogue between the Chief Dental Officer as head of the dental profession and the regulatory body for dentists.

The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE), which oversees the work of the regulatory bodies including the General Dental Council, has been asked to consider what constitutes good practice in terms of the process of making appointments to and the governance of the health professions' regulatory bodies. In light of CHRE's work, we will consider whether the existing arrangements continue to be appropriate.

Dental Services: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices which provide treatment *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly under the NHS are operating in (i) Cumbria and (ii) the South Lakeland District Council area. [63907]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: Standards

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the restrictions applying to the manufacture in the UK of dental devices made by untrained dental technicians registered *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [63289]

Mr Simon Burns: The only specific representations we have received were about the robustness of the requirement under the European Medical Devices Directive for an 'authorised representative' to certify that a dental appliance manufactured outside the European Economic Area complies with the directive. I understand that these representations were made last March at a meeting my noble Friend, the Under-Secretary of State and Government Spokesperson, Department of Health (The Earl Howe), held with the hon. Member and a dental technician working in her constituency. Although we recognise that some dental technicians are concerned about the adequacy of the regulatory framework for the manufacture of dental appliances, we have not received any complaints from patients about their quality.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number and proportion of statements of conformity of dental devices supplied in the UK as set out in Article 11.6 and Annex VIII of 93/42/EC that correctly identified the manufacturer in the last 12 months. [63342]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is taking to ensure patients are offered a statement of conformity of dental devices as set out in Article 11.6 and Annex VIII of 93/42/EC. [63343]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has provided guidance on its website alerting patients to their right to be supplied on request with the statement of conformity for custom-made medical devices. The guidance was produced in consultation with the relevant trade and professional associations who also undertook to make it available on their own networks and is available at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Devices/RevisionstothemedicaldevicesandAIMDDirectives/index.htm

Any allegations of non-compliance with this requirement received will be assessed by MHRA and the appropriate action taken to rectify it.

Dentists: Training

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has assessed the level of demand for *(a)* a degree course in dental technology and *(b)* the inclusion of a technological component in dentist training courses; [63230]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that training for dentists includes technical aspects of *(a)* dental restoration and *(b)* dental appliances. [63231]

Mr Simon Burns: A BSc (Hons) degree in Dental Technology is already offered by Manchester Metropolitan university. We have no evidence to suggest that this course is not meeting demand for degree level training in dental technology. The degree is accredited by the General Dental Council (GDC) which is also responsible for assuring the quality of the training of dentists. The GDC is independent of government.

Food: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the average daily calorie intake of children in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area, *(c)* primary care trust and *(d)* parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years. [63603]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold information on the average daily calorie intake of children in each region, local authority area, primary care trust and parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years.

The report of the National Diet and Nutrition survey 2008-09 contains information on average daily calorie (energy) intake of children. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 7 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 903-4W. This is based on a representative sample of children across the United Kingdom, but is not large enough to breakdown into the areas described.

Health Services: Nottinghamshire

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS bodies *(a)* operate in Nottinghamshire and *(b)* will operate in Nottinghamshire after the entry into force of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [64143]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Health and Social Care Bill does not dictate the number of national health service bodies in any part of the country. This will largely be a matter for the local NHS to determine.

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the potential costs of NHS staff redundancies in *(a)* Nottingham and *(b)* Nottinghamshire arising from the implementation of his proposals for reform of the NHS. [64144]

Mr Simon Burns: The impact assessment, published alongside the Health and Social Care Bill in January, estimated the cost of national health service redundancies in strategic health authorities and primary care trusts across England.

The Department has not estimated a regional breakdown of these figures, as these will depend on local decisions.

The impact assessment is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_123583

A copy has already been placed in the Library.

A revised impact assessment will be published when the Bill is introduced into the House of Lords. This is in line with parliamentary protocol.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was owed to the NHS in unpaid bills incurred by foreign nationals in each financial year between 1997 and 2011; what the sum was of NHS bills incurred by foreign nationals in each year between 1997 and 2011; and what the nationalities were of those who incurred the bills in each case. [63921]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the total audited losses, bad debt and claims abandoned for overseas visitors for years which data are available, for England. As well as written off debt for foreign nationals who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, these data include written off debt for UK nationals who are not ordinarily resident here. Further, it does not include monies owed that hospitals are still in the process of attempting to recover. The Department does not hold data on the nationality of overseas visitors treated.

Bad debts and claims abandoned in respect of overseas patients

	£
2002-03	2,109,000
2003-04	3,334,173
2004-05	2,369,650
2005-06	3,883,017
2006-07	5,046,763
2007-08	6,468,751
2008-09	5,204,856
2009-10	6,967,780

Note:
We do not collect data from national health service foundation trusts so figures exclude these sites.
Source:
NHS Trust Audited Summarisation Schedules.

HealthWatch: Freedom of Information

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 355W, on HealthWatch: freedom of information, whether he has made a decision on the addition of local HealthWatch organisations to the schedule of the Freedom of Information Act; and if he will make a statement. [63618]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to parliamentary approval, it is our intention to take steps to ensure that Local HealthWatch organisations will be subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Department is currently working to establish the best way to achieve that outcome.

Heroin: Offenders

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prisoners took a heroin overdose within two weeks of their release in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [63615]

Paul Burstow: This information is not routinely collected centrally. A multi-site study of the integrated drug treatment system is due to report at the end of 2012. It will include measurement of drug-related death upon release among 20,000 heroin users.

Mental Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has undertaken on the effectiveness of *(a)* relational therapy and *(b)* dynamic counselling to treat depression and anxiety; what criteria are used to measure the effectiveness of such treatments; and what the measured level of effectiveness was for each such treatment in the latest period for which figures are available. [63344]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not funded research specifically on the effectiveness of relational therapy and dynamic counselling to treat depression and anxiety. The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme produces independent research information about the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments. The HTA programme has funded a range of research on psychological treatments for depression and anxiety. Details of these projects, including outcome measures and project findings, are available on the programme website at:

www.hta.ac.uk/project/htapubs.asp

Midwives: Greater London

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives there were in each NHS primary care trust in London in each of the last five years. [63680]

Anne Milton: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) do not generally employ midwives therefore the following table provides information for all national health service organisations in the London strategic health authority area who employ midwives.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified registered midwifes in London strategic health authority area by organisation, organisation type as at 30 September each specified year

							Headcount
			2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
London Strategic Health Authority area			4,307	4,407	4,785	4,866	5,020
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	Acute	292	295	278	304	331
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	Acute	243	252	266	264	256
Baits and The London NHS Trust	RNJ	Acute	115	123	138	172	186
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQM	Acute	165	150	151	213	234

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified registered midwifes in London strategic health authority area by organisation, organisation type as at 30 September each specified year

							Headcount
			2006	2007	2008	2009	2010[1]
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	Acute	45	156	106	111	108
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	RVR	Acute	225	252	231	191	245
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Children NHS Trust	RP4	Acute	0	0	0	2	1
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ1	Acute	342	278	305	286	281
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQX	Acute	179	189	197	185	169
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	RYJ	Acute	295	294	297	265	326
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RJZ	Acute	210	231	255	266	290
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	Acute	179	145	210	208	213
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	Acute	143	136	154	124	138
London Strategic Health Authority	Q36	SHA	2	0	0	0	0
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ6	Acute	141	128	259	198	125
Newham PCT	5C5	PCT	0	0	0	1	0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	Acute	156	188	203	211	198
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	Acute	87	93	94	119	120
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	Acute	116	120	117	124	150
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	Acute	131	97	113	129	110
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	RYQ	Acute	387	381	327	360	365
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	Acute	143	165	205	169	260
The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RAS	Acute	145	157	130	143	158
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	Acute	159	172	173	195	208
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	PCT	1	1	1	1	0
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RRV	Acute	134	111	271	297	188
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	PCT	0	1	0	0	0
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RFW	Acute	127	136	139	154	176
Westminster PCT	5LC	PCT	0	0	0	0	3
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	Acute	145	156	165	174	184

[1] 2010 headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. The new headcount methodology for 2010 data is not fully comparable with previous years' data due to improvements that make it a more stringent count of absolute staff numbers. Further information on the headcount methodology is available in the Census publication at:
www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/010_Workforce/nhsstaff0010/Census_Bulletin_March_2011_Final.pdf

Note:

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

Myeloma

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on myeloma in 2010-11; at what cost to the public purse; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of research on myeloma in each of the next three financial years. [63273]

Paul Burstow: The Department is fully committed to clinical and applied research into treatment and cures for cancer. The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including myeloma. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 11 trials and other well-designed studies in myeloma that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the UK CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

In partnership with Cancer Research UK, the NIHR funds 15 experimental cancer medicine centres (ECMCs) across England. In 2010-11, these centres reported participating in 20 myeloma studies.

In 2010-11, the NIHR invested £18 million in the National Cancer Research Network and £5.7 million in ECMCs. Data for expenditure on myeloma research cannot be disaggregated from these figures.

In addition, in 2010-11 the NIHR spent £0.9 million on research into myeloma through six of the NIHR biomedical research centres.

NHS Future Forum

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of those who participated in listening events with members of the NHS Future Forum were *(a)* employed by the NHS,

(b) from the voluntary sector, *(c)* from private sector organisations and *(d)* members of the public. [63904]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information on individual attendees at all the events that took place as part of the NHS Listening Exercise. Approximate numbers of attendees were recorded. I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 871-72W, which gives a description of the events held and provides an indication of the types of people who would have attended.

NHS Supply Chain Supplier Code of Conduct

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the NHS Supply Chain Supplier Code of Conduct. [63413]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Supply Chain have commenced a review of how their 'Supplier Code of Conduct' on Ethical and Sustainable Sourcing is applied to their procurement process for surgical instruments and how well suppliers can demonstrate adherence to it.

In response to initial findings of this review NHS Supply Chain have enhanced their 'Supplier Code of Conduct' and are in the process of communicating this to all contracted surgical instrument suppliers. This new 'Code of Conduct' is available at:

www.supplychain.nhs.uk/suppliers/code-of-conduct/

NHS: Procurement

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS hospitals on the ethical procurement of surgical equipment; and whether he plans to review that guidance. [63411]

Mr Simon Burns: Guidelines for the national health service, the "Ethical Procurement for Health" workbook (and supporting materials), were issued on 16 May 2011 by the British Medical Association and Ethical Trading Initiative in partnership with the Department of Health.

The Department encourages all NHS organisations to follow the advice within these materials as appropriate. The "Ethical Procurement for Health" workbook and materials will be reviewed periodically and in response to feedback as experience of practical application develops. The workbook can be accessed at:

www.ethicaltrade.org/ethical-procurement-for-health

Ovarian Cancer: Health Education

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish a national awareness campaign on ovarian cancer for the purposes of increasing early diagnosis; and if he will make a statement. [63449]

Paul Burstow: On 12 January 2011, we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer". The strategy sets out an ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer, the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity.

We have already indicated that, subject to the evaluation of the regional pilots, the main focus for a national symptom awareness campaign this year would be bowel cancer. We are also planning to pilot new campaigns on other cancers and symptoms. We know that not all the 5,000 lives can be saved by tackling only common cancers.

Pancreatic Cancer

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer in the *(a)* medical profession and *(b)* general public; and if he will make a statement; [63910]

(2) if he will take steps to increase the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; and if he will make a statement. [63912]

Paul Burstow: On 12 January 2011 we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The strategy sets out an ambition to save at least an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15 through earlier diagnosis of cancer and improved access to screening and radiotherapy. To support earlier diagnosis of cancer, the Government have committed over £450 million over the next four years, which includes provision for the funding of awareness activity and measures to support general practitioners to diagnose cancer earlier.

The strategy also sets out our commitment to work with a number of rarer cancer-focused charities to assess what more can be done to encourage appropriate referrals to secondary care and to diagnose rarer cancers earlier.

Departmental officials have already met with a number of these charities, including a pancreatic cancer charity, with the aim of identifying some of the barriers to early diagnosis and to discuss potential solutions. This will inform our future work in this area.

We have already indicated that, subject to the evaluation of the regional pilots, the focus for a national symptom awareness campaign this year would be bowel cancer. We are also planning to pilot new campaigns on other cancers and symptoms. We know that not all the 5,000 lives can be saved by tackling common cancers.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will increase the level of funding for research into the causes and treatment of pancreatic cancer; and if he will make a statement. [63911]

Paul Burstow: The Department is fully committed to clinical and applied research into treatment and cures for cancer. The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including pancreatic cancer. These applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made. In all disease areas, the amount of NIHR funding depends on the volume and quality of scientific activity.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) is currently hosting 10 trials and other well-designed studies in pancreatic cancer that are in set-up or recruiting patients. Details can be found on the UK CRN portfolio database at:

http://public.ukcrn.org.uk/search

Peterborough Hospital: PFI

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost in each cost category was of the *(a)* design, *(b)* construction and *(c)* annual operating costs of Peterborough city hospital on the date of signature of the private finance initiative contract; [64075]

(2) what changes were made to project specifications under the Peterborough city hospital private finance initiative agreement after the date the agreement was signed; [64076]

(3) what the *(a)* name is and *(b)* date of appointment was of each accounting officer for the Peterborough city hospital private finance initiative project since commencement of the design of the hospital; [64078]

(4) what estimate was made of the number of patients to be treated in the first year of operation at Peterborough city hospital at the time the contract for the project under the private finance initiative was signed. [64079]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is a matter for Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Nigel Hards, Chairman of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. Mr Hards will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department collects in respect of *(a)* the management of the Peterborough city hospital private finance initiative agreement and *(b)* the disposal of Peterborough district hospital. [64077]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects information about Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's private finance initiative project manager. The trust currently has a full-time project manager.

The disposal of the site of the former Peterborough district hospital is a matter for the trust and is not something on which the Department routinely collects information. However, we understand that the trust remains committed to getting the best possible value for the site.

Prescription Drugs: Misuse

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what interests were declared by each author of the recently published National Addiction Centre report on addiction to prescribed medicine. [64022]

Anne Milton: All academic research is bound by strict codes of conduct such as the Research Councils UK policy and code of conduct on the governance of good research conduct and the UK Research Integrity Office code of conduct for research.

The National Addictions Centre is part of King's College London and as such is bound by the college's commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards of integrity and probity in the conduct of academic research. This includes a specific requirement for all possible conflicts of interest to be declared within any tender for externally commissioned work.

The authors of the report published by the National Addiction Centre declared no conflicts of interest in their tender for the work commissioned by the Department.

Prescriptions

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of uncollected prescriptions in each financial year from 1997 to 2010. [64142]

Mr Simon Burns: For uncollected prescriptions there is not an actual supply of a drug to a patient and thus there is no cost of the drug to the national health service.

Where a patient presents a prescription form to a dispensing contractor for dispensing, the prescription item would then be prepared ready for collection. However, if the patient does not return to collect the item, a dispensing contractor cannot make a claim for reimbursement as the drug has not been supplied to the patient.

Radiotherapy

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to paragraph 6.12 of Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer, how much of the additional funding for radiotherapy capacity is to be made available to commissioners in the South West in each of the next four years; [63646]

(2) with reference to the recommendations on the tariff for lung cancer contained in the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group Report on Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment published in April 2011, on what date his Department's new cancer strategy will include such a tariff; [63732]

(3) with reference to the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group Report on Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment (SBRT) published in April 2011, what technologies the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has identified as appropriate for evaluation for SBRT; and on what date NICE will publish its findings; [63733]

(4) with reference to the National Radiotherapy Implementation Group Report on Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Treatment (SBRT) published in April 2011, whether his Department's new cancer strategy will include a tariff for the SBRT recommended trials for cancers of the *(a)* pancreas, *(b)* oligometastases, *(c)* hepatic metastases, *(d)* kidney, *(e)* prostate, *(f)* head and neck, *(g)* liver and *(h)* spine. [63734]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer" sets out our commitment to expand radiotherapy capacity by investing over £150 million in additional funding over the next four years. This additional funding was included in the financial settlement for the spending review period 2011-12 to 2014-15 and will be included in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations, alongside the existing funding for radiotherapy.

Recurrent revenue allocations are currently made to PCTs on the basis of a weighted capitation formula, used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. Funding for specific services is not identified at PCT-level, it is for PCTs to decide how to use their funding to commission services, including radiotherapy services, to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. We have said we will investigate the potential development of a range of tariffs to incentivise high quality, cost-effective services, including the newest radiotherapy techniques, once the standard radiotherapy tariff has been introduced. It is anticipated that a national currency for radiotherapy will be introduced for contracting in April 2012, with prices agreed locally. Feedback from the service on the use of these currencies will inform decisions on when it would be appropriate to introduce a mandatory national tariff, which is likely to be no earlier than 2013-14.

The National Radiotherapy Implementation Group (NRIG) report, "Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) Guidelines for Commissioners, Providers and Clinicians in England 2011", has now been made available on the National Cancer Action Team website at:

www.ncat.nhs.uk/our-work/ensuring-better-treatment/radiotherapy

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) can now use the report to identify whether there are any indications for SBRT that would be appropriate for them to evaluate further via the Medical Technologies Advisory Committee or other programmes at NICE.

Ritalin: Children

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the number of children who have been prescribed Ritalin or a similar drug; [63456]

(2) if he will estimate the number of children under the age of six who have been prescribed Ritalin or a similar drug; and if he will assess trends in the number of such prescriptions in the last five years; [63457]

(3) if he will estimate the number of children under the age of six in Wolverhampton who have been prescribed Ritalin or a similar drug; [63458]

(4) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issues to practitioners on the prescription of Ritalin and similar drugs to young children. [63459]

Anne Milton: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) on 4 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 684W.

Royal Brompton Hospital: Heart Diseases

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects on children with severe asthma of the removal of children's heart services from the Royal Brompton hospital. [63683]

Mr Simon Burns: The "Safe and Sustainable" review is being conducted by the NHS Specialised Commissioning Team. We have however been following its progress.

No decision has yet been made on the location of children's heart surgery units. The proposed options for paediatric congenital heart services were consulted on between 1 March and 1 July 2011. The consultation questionnaire specifically asked for views on whether two or three centres would be the optimal number for London and, if two is preferred, which of the three centres should be designated.

The consultation document made it clear that the Joint Committee of primary care trusts (JCPCT) will consider any evidence submitted about the potential impact for children who access other relevant clinical services (such as asthma). In response to concerns that have been set out by the board of the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust about the potential impact to paediatric respiratory services at the Royal Brompton hospital, the JCPCT has convened an expert clinical panel to investigate the issues and report to it in the autumn.

We would expect the JCPCT, before taking a decision, to consider this report as well as an independent analysis of the consultation responses, reports from health overview and scrutiny committees, and a health impact assessment.

Local health overview and scrutiny committees will also have a further opportunity to consider the analysis of the consultation and the health impact assessment and supplement their consultation responses by 5 October 2011.

St George's Healthcare NHS Trust

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects on patient safety of reductions in services at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust. [63681]

Mr Simon Burns: It is for the local national health service to decide how services should be delivered.

Any reduction in health services should be planned and designed in discussion with, and supported by, local clinicians, including general practitioners to ensure the safety of services for patients at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust.

Tuberculosis: Drugs

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of NHS procurement, monitoring of supply and distribution capacity of drugs to treat tuberculosis; [63290]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the risk of people developing drug resistant tuberculosis due to inconsistent supply of anti-tuberculosis drugs; and what steps his Department plans to take to ensure sufficient stocks of anti-tuberculosis drugs to meet demand. [63291]

Anne Milton: Medicine supply problems can occur for a number of reasons, such as manufacturing problems, difficulties in obtaining raw materials or regulatory problems. We understand that there have been problems with the supply of some medicines for tuberculosis (TB) and the Department is working with national health service colleagues to ensure that patients continue to get the medicines they need.

The Health Protection Agency has advised that information about whether cases of drug resistant TB in this country may be associated with supply of TB drugs is not available.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: Alexandra Hospital

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department allocated to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust in 2010-11; and what proportion of such funding was provided to the Alexandra hospital. [63242]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not allocated any funding directly to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust in 2010-11. Rather, the Department currently makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs). The most recent round of allocations to PCTs was for 2011-12. PCTs use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. National health service trusts primarily derive income through the provision of health services to PCTs.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Electric Cables: Rural Areas

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on granting permission for overhead pylons in non-urban areas; and what discussions he has had with the First Minister of Wales on this issue. [63658]

Charles Hendry: Government policy for consenting of overhead power lines in all landscapes is that proposals should be economic and efficient and that applicants, in formulating their proposals, should have regard to the desirability of preserving amenity and do what they reasonably can to mitigate visual impacts. Consenting policy for lines of 132 kV and above is set out in more detail in the finalised National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5 that was published on 23 June 2011 and laid before Parliament for debate and approval.

I have not had specific discussions with the Welsh Government on this issue. At the British-Irish Council summit on 20 June, the Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones, raised the issue of pylons in Wales as part of a wider point on the impact of the UK Government energy policy on Wales. I have since written to the Welsh First Minister following his request for clarification of the major energy infrastructure planning regime for England and Wales.

Wind Power

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the deployment potential of *(a)* onshore and *(b)* offshore wind by 2030. [63199]

Charles Hendry: The latest information that the Department holds is an independent study by Arup[1] on projected generation costs and deployment potential for 17 renewable electricity technologies—including onshore and offshore wind—to 2030. This was published by DECC on 10 June.

The following table provides a summary of deployment potential for wind power from the Arup study:

	Deployment potential by 2030—installed capacity (GW)		
Technology	*Low scenario*	*Medium scenario*	*High scenario*
Onshore wind >5MW	15	17	24
Onshore wind <5MW	0.8	1.3	1.7
Offshore wind[2]	35	41	52

It should be noted that Arup's figures are non-financially constrained and for onshore wind do not take into account the availability of suitable sites.

[1] Review of the generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity technologies in the UK.

[2] Offshore wind Round 2, Round 3, Scottish Territorial Waters.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Prosecutions

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General in respect of how many offences of each type the Crown Prosecution Service applied the threshold test in making the decision to charge in each of the last five years. [64086]

The Solicitor-General: The number and percentage of defendants charged under the threshold test is provided in the following table. The pre-charge decisions total includes the number of cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) that were subsequently either charged, sent for further information, led to an out of court disposal or ended in no further action.

The CPS is unable to provide these data by offence type. This information is held on individual case files and could only be retrieved by locating and then examining every relevant file in every CPS office in England and Wales which would incur a disproportionate cost.

		Threshold test	
	Total pre-charge decisions	*Number*	*Percentage*
2007-08	547,050	34,336	6.3
2008-09	532,427	31,913	6.0
2009-10	477,517	29,193	6.1
2010-11	466,611	29,296	6.3

Prosecutions: Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutions were brought by the Crown Prosecution Service for human trafficking in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such cases resulted in a conviction. [63714]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records show that in the last year 96 prosecutions have been brought on charges under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking

for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and 20 prosecutions under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, alleging trafficking for other exploitative purposes. The CPS records indicate the volume of offences, not defendants, prosecuted by the CPS under each Act. These data are not held by defendant or by outcome; therefore we are unable to provide information on how many of these prosecutions resulted in a conviction.

Public Bodies: Human Rights

Jesse Norman: To ask the Attorney-General what recent assessment he has made of proceedings in relation to public authorities under article 8 of schedule 1 to the Human Rights Act 1998. [63522]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers have not made a recent assessment of legal proceedings concerning the right to respect for private and family life provided by article 8 of the European convention on human rights. As the Government's chief legal advisers responsible for overseeing all government litigation, the Attorney-General and I are regularly updated about legal proceedings raising article 8 and other convention right issues.

Serious Fraud Office

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General what additional resources he plans to make available to the Serious Fraud Office to enable it to *(a)* train its staff, *(b)* advise businesses and *(c)* fulfil its responsibilities to investigate and prosecute cases under the Bribery Act 2010. [63725]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has made comprehensive plans to ensure that they will meet all the requirements of the new Bribery Act within their current resource plans.

The SFO will continue with their detailed training for their staff with regards to the Bribery Act.

So far staff from the SFO have attended over 100 events and provided advice to many businesses and their advisors on the impact of the Bribery Act. The SFO will continue to advise and support businesses to ensure they are able to comply with the Bribery Act.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Industrial Health and Safety

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will assess the merits of implementing the recommendation of the Davidson Review that the Health and Safety Executive should consider exempting the self-employed in low-risk sectors from certain health and safety legislation; [63350]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the administrative burden of health and safety regulations on the priority given by businesses to *(a)* compliance with legislation and *(b)* the implementation of effective health and safety measures; and if he will make a statement. [63351]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 727W, to my hon. Friend the Member for North West Leicestershire (Andrew Bridgen).

The Department—the Better Regulation Executive in particular—has an established working relationship with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and I am delighted that this Government are implementing the recommendations from my noble Friend Lord Young of Graffhams recent review of Health and Safety in the UK.

Business: Loans

Chris Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 344W, on business: loans, what initial assessment the Government made during the Merlin negotiations of the additional amount banks could lend in 2011 compared with 2010. [63093]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 344W.

In discussion with the Government, the main UK banks committed to put in place new lending capacity of £190 billion for businesses in 2011, compared with actual lending in 2010 of £179 billion. The banks also agreed to make £76 billion of this new lending capacity available to UK small and medium sized businesses for 2011, an increase of 15% on what they lent in 2010.

As stated in the Merlin agreement,

"With respect to UK small and medium sized businesses, the banks' original expectations were that demand would be lower in 2011 than in 2010 [...]. However, taking account of the dialogue which has brought about this agreement, which has at its core a shared objective to support economic recovery in the UK, these five banks have agreed to aim to foster more demand, such that their intention for gross new lending in 2011 is now higher than what was actually delivered in 2010, recognising that this will involve extensive work to overcome the challenges noted above."

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62492]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 the Department has reported performance against two prompt payment targets. The first being a 30 calendar day contractual target and the second covering the Government's aim to pay as many invoices as possible within five working days. The figures for each covering the period May 2010 to May 2011 inclusive are as follows:

Payments made within 30 calendar days

	Number	*£*
Total number of invoices paid and value	28,839	19,315,256,196
Total number and value of invoices paid within 30 days	28,779	19,314,679,625
Total number and value of invoices paid over 30 days	60	576,571

Payments made within five working days

	Number	£
Total number of invoices paid and value	26,327	7,525,712,240
Total number and value of invoices paid within five days	22,791	7,097,314,000
Total number and value of invoices paid over five days	3,536	428,398,240

For information, payments made within the 30 calendar days contractual period cover invoices submitted from all organisations. Payments made within five working days exclude invoices submitted by Government Departments, partner organisations and foreign currency payments. In addition, payments made via Government Procurement Card where an invoice is not submitted are excluded from the figures in the tables.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of Ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* Ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a Ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of Ministerial cars since his appointment. [62990]

Mr Davey: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of the House.

2005/06

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006/07

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007/08

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008/09

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009/10

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and due for release later this month.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

Please find following information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' Ministerial Car Service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011.

Attorney-General's Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	11
October 2010	23
November 2010	31
December 2010	19
January 2011	11
February 2011	18
March 2011	25
Total	138

Cabinet Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	114
October 2010	113
November 2010	126
December 2010	58
January 2011	53
February 2011	39
March 2011	58
Total	561

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

	Number of jobs
September 2010	91
October 2010	83
November 2010	102
December 2010	49
January 2011	4
February 2011	2
March 2011	3
Total	334

Department for Communities and Local Government

	Number of jobs
September 2010	63
October 2010	62
November 2010	101
December 2010	63
January 2011	65
February 2011	80
March 2011	123
Total	557

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Number of jobs
September 2010	3
October 2010	3
November 2010	3
February 2011	2
March 2011	1
Total	12

Department for Education

	Number of jobs
September 2010	47
October 2010	67
November 2010	84
December 2010	53
January 2011	68
February 2011	32
March 2011	75
Total	426

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

	Number of jobs
September 2010	2
October 2010	4
November 2010	10
December 2010	4
January 2011	4
March 2011	6
Total	30

Department for International Development

	Number of jobs
September 2010	66
October 2010	80
November 2010	98
December 2010	53
January 2011	59
February 2011	93
March 2011	96
Total	545

Department for Transport

	Number of jobs
September 2010	29
October 2010	29
November 2010	40
December 2010	26
January 2011	30
February 2011	25
March 2011	47
Total	226

Department for Work and Pensions

	Number of jobs
September 2010	36
October 2010	29
November 2010	48
December 2010	33
January 2011	36
February 2011	48
March 2011	63
Total	293

Department of Energy and Climate Change

	Number of jobs
September 2010	30
October 2010	23
November 2010	37
December 2010	23
January 2011	46
February 2011	43
March 2011	57
Total	259

Department of Health

	Number of jobs
September 2010	67
October 2010	75
November 2010	105
December 2010	69
January 2011	83
February 2011	71
March 2011	122

Department of Health

	Number of jobs
Total	592

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	111
October 2010	30
November 2010	10
December 2010	1
January 2011	1
February 2011	7
March 2011	1
Total	161

Her Majesty's Treasury

	Number of jobs
September 2010	39
October 2010	65
November 2010	50
December 2010	34
January 2011	33
February 2011	30
March 2011	45
Total	296

Home Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	86
October 2010	59
November 2010	71
December 2010	83
January 2011	65
February 2011	65
March 2011	100
Total	529

House of Commons

	Number of jobs
February 2011	1
Total	1

House of Lords

	Number of jobs
September 2010	9
October 2010	4
November 2010	11
December 2010	4
January 2011	1
March 2011	2
Total	31

Ministry of Defence

	Number of jobs
March 2011	1
Total	1

Ministry of Justice

	Number of jobs
September 2010	78
October 2010	103

Ministry of Justice

	Number of jobs
November 2010	126
December 2010	75
January 2011	91
February 2011	90
March 2011	120
Total	683

Northern Ireland Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	8
October 2010	23
November 2010	43
December 2010	29
January 2011	27
February 2011	29
March 2011	40
Total	199

Scotland Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	3
October 2010	6
November 2010	6
December 2010	14
February 2011	1
March 2011	2
Total	32

Welsh Office

	Number of jobs
September 2010	22
October 2010	23
November 2010	17
December 2010	1
January 2011	4
February 2011	5
March 2011	2
Total	74

Diamond Review

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to receive the Diamond review; what the terms of reference of the review are; and if he will make a statement. [63597]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Efficiency and Modernisation Task Group, led by Professor Ian Diamond of the University of Aberdeen, was set up by Universities UK. I understand that the full report of the Task Group will be delivered in July 2011.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timeline is for the consultation on a new regulatory framework for higher education; and if he will make a statement. [63601]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The reforms set out in the Higher Education White Paper will open up higher education, making higher education institutions more accountable to students. To support this, and provide the right safeguards, we will reform the regulatory framework. We intend to consult on our proposals for a single, transparent regulatory framework, including removal of barriers to entry, to cover all institutions that want to be part of the English higher education system from August until October 2011.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places for undergraduates he expects to be available in each university in 2011-12. [63990]

Mr Willetts: This information is not available. We do not plan for the number of students at an institutional level. The actual number of places on undergraduate courses will depend on the decisions of individual universities. We expect the total number of places on all courses in 2011/12 to be broadly similar to 2010/11. The December 2010 Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England asked for continued provision of the 10,000 additional entrant places made available to the sector through the University Modernisation Fund in May 2010.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what modelling his Department has undertaken on the effects on higher education institutions of *(a)* allowing unrestricted recruitment of students scoring the equivalent of AAB or above at A level and *(b)* the creation of a flexible margin of 20,000 places in 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [64081]

Mr Willetts: The impact assessment of the proposals in the Higher Education White Paper can be found on our website. This includes modelling on the policy of allowing unrestrained recruitment of highly qualified students, and the creation of a margin of 20,000 places.

We have asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to consult, immediately, on how to implement these approaches and to develop the necessary mechanisms. We have also asked HEFCE to monitor the impact of the approach and its effect on supply and demand and provide advice, as soon as feasible, on how the model is operating in its first year.

Higher Education: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by the *(a)* Quality Assurance Agency, *(b)* Office for Fair Access, *(c)* Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(d)* Office of the Independent Adjudicator in each of the last three years; how many he estimates will be employed by each such body in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [64082]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Office For Fair Access (OFFA) on 31 March 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Both organisations are responsible for taking decisions on staffing numbers in the light of the priorities and resources the Government give them. The Government's recent White Paper on higher education proposed significant reforms to the functions of both HEFCE and OFFA and future staff numbers will need to be determined following final decisions here.

FTE at:	*31 March 2009*	*31 March 2010*	*31 March 2011*
HEFCE	246.6	252.1	252
OFFA	3.9	3.9	[1]3.9

[1] As of 30 June 2011 OFFA have employed an additional two staff on fixed-term contracts.

The Quality Assurance Agency and Office of the Independent Adjudicator are independent bodies and the Department does not hold this information.

Higher Education: Pay

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff employed by the *(a)* Student Loans Company, *(b)* Office of the Independent Adjudicator, *(c)* Higher Education Funding Council for England, *(d)* Quality Assurance Agency and *(e)* Office for Fair Access received salaries greater than (i) £65,000, (ii) £100,000, (iii) £200,000 and (iv) £250,000 in (A) 2011-12 and (B) each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [64084]

Mr Willetts: The following table shows how many staff employed by the Student Loans Company, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Office For Fair Access (OFFA) received the stipulated salaries for the years requested.

FTE salaries	*£65,000-£99,999*	*£100,000-£199,999*	*£200,000-£249,999*	*>£250,000*
2011/12				
HEFCE	19	3	1	0
OFFA	0	1	0	0
SLC	10	7	0	0
2010/11				
HEFCE	20	3	1	0
OFFA	0	1	0	0
SLC	10	8	0	0
2009/10				
HEFCE	19	3	1	0
OFFA	0	1	0	0
SLC	9	6	0	0
2008/09				
HEFCE	12	3	1	0
OFFA	0	1	0	0
SLC	8	6	0	0

Note:
Context for OFFA figures: The director is appointed by the Secretary of State currently working 0.4 full-time employment (FTE). The director's FTE salary has been illustrated above. His salary for 0.4 FTE falls below £65,000.

The Quality Assurance Agency and Office of the Independent Adjudicator are independent bodies and the Department does not hold this information.

Motor Vehicles: EU Law

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the implications for multi-branded car dealerships of the removal of the 2002 motor vehicle Block Exemption Regulation. [59116]

Mr Davey: I have received a number of representations from hon. Members of Parliament, enclosing correspondence from dealerships in their constituencies.

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential effect on consumers of the proposed changes to the relationship between car manufacturers and dealerships under the 2010 motor vehicle Block Exemption Regulation ((EU)461/2010). [59117]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to assess the potential effects of the revised regulation.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 972W, on motor vehicles: industry, what discussions he has had with other Government Departments on the purchase by those Departments of motor vehicles produced in Britain. [63539]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable) has had no discussions on this matter with other Government Departments.

Motor Vehicles: Retail Trade

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the European Commission on the effect on consumers of the absence of a Europe-wide code of conduct for franchised motor retailing. [59049]

Mr Davey: I have no plans to do so, but, I would encourage manufacturers and retailers to engage constructively with the European Commission in developing their own proposals.

Overseas Trade: Employment

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the number of jobs in the UK which are dependent on trade with *(a)* Eurozone countries, *(b)* Brazil, *(c)* Russia, *(d)* India, *(e)* China and *(f)* the US. [63013]

Mr Prisk: Estimates of the number of jobs in the UK which are dependent on trade with the Eurozone, Brazil, Russia, India, China or the US have not been made.

The EU is vital to the UK's growth and prosperity, with European markets accounting for half of the UK's overall exports of goods and services. Eight out of the UK's 10 main export markets are in the EU. BIS has estimated that 3.5 million jobs are linked directly or

indirectly to the UK's trade with the EU. This is based on the assumption that the share of UK employment linked to trade with the EU is equal to the share of total UK value added generated in the production of goods exported to the EU.

Public Services: Private Sector

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will direct his Department's review of business models of companies that provide public services to consider the effects on funding for people in residential care of reductions in local authority budgets. [61324]

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to his Department's investigation into the role of private equity firms in supplying public services, what the remit is of the investigation; when the investigation will be completed; whether the findings of the investigation will be published; and if he will make a statement following the completion of the investigation. [61151]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 21 June 2011]:* Following initial consideration by officials in the Department, I have written to Cabinet Office Ministers to ensure that the Open Public Services White Paper sets out plans for Departments to develop regimes to detect and cope with potential failure in key public service provision, and that these plans include appropriate consideration of financial risks.

Repayment Acceleration

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how long the consultation on early repayment acceleration will last; how it will be conducted; what its terms of reference will be; and if he will make a statement. [63598]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Government are consulting on whether there should be a charge for the early repayment of loans, and on an early repayment mechanism that would allow those who wish to pay off their loans early or make voluntary contributions to do so without undermining the progressiveness of the system.

This consultation will end on 20 September 2011.

Interested parties can access the consultation material via the BIS website

http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/hereform/

Responses or questions about the consultation can be sent direct to BIS by e-mail

he.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk

by standard mail at the address given, or through the consultation website.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of the level of fees a university can expect to receive from *(a)* home students, *(b)* non-EU students and *(c)* EU students on admissions decisions by universities. [64055]

Mr Willetts: No such assessment has been undertaken. The Government are committed to the principle, which is underpinned in law, that decisions about admission to university are a matter for individual universities, and not for Government. The Office for Fair Access will ensure that universities wanting to charge over £6,000 for any of its courses will promote access to higher education for students from under-represented backgrounds. Students from outside the EU are not in competition for places with British students. Their places are in addition to the funded places available to home and EU students.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of universities which will charge £9,000 per year for undergraduate courses. [64056]

Mr Willetts: 140 institutions have indicated their intention to charge over £6,000 for at least one of their courses by submitting an access agreement for 2012-13 to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). This comprises 123 higher education institutions and 17 further education colleges. The Director of Fair Access has said he will be making his announcements on approved access agreements by 12 July.

JUSTICE

Criminal Injuries Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority cases have been ongoing for more than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12 and *(c)* 24 months. [63663]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested is as follows:

Ongoing for	*Number of cases*
Between six and 12 months	11,134
Between 12 and 24 months	8,671
More than 24 months	5,823

Custody: Step-families

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to courts on applications by step-parents for legal custody of children where the child has regular contact with its natural parents; and if he will make a statement. [64070]

Mr Djanogly: Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 enables the court to make four types of order in respect of children. One of these is a residence order to determine with whom a child should live. The court may make a residence order with respect to a child if an application has been made (i) by a person who is entitled to apply for a section 8 order, or (ii) a person who has obtained the leave of the court to make the application. The court may also make an order without application if it considers that an order should be made.

Under section 10 (5) (a) and (aa) of the Children Act a person who is married or in a civil partnership with a person in relation to whom the child is a child of the family—that is, a step-parent—may apply for a residence or contact order in respect of the child.

There is no specific guidance to the courts in respect of applications by step-parents. When considering whether to make a residence order, the welfare needs of the child are the paramount consideration for the court. The court will take into account all the facts put before it in reaching a decision.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63559]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: For the 12 month period from June 2010 to May 2011, the Ministry of Justice paid 81.9% of all invoices within five working days of receipt of the invoice.

The Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many small and medium-sized enterprises can be found within larger supply chains.

Details of the Ministry's prompt payment performance are publicly available on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/procurement-and-commercial/payment-performance.htm

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63574]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Department does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requester is a Member of Parliament or member of the public.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies. These statistics show that the Department has received the following number of requests per year since its creation in 2007:

	Number of FOI requests received
2007	1,427
2008	2,492
2009	2,899
2010	3,174

In the first quarter of 2011 (1 January to 31 March inclusive) the Ministry of Justice received 847 FOI requests.

Prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice, its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, received the following number of requests per year:

	Number of FOI request received
2005	602
2006	712

Departmental Location

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has discussed relocation of his staff from London with Redditch council. [63233]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has previously been in communication with Redditch council, following correspondence received from them in April 2010, regarding an earlier strategy to relocate posts outside London. However, the decision that we focus on the existing estate and its rationalisation was taken on the basis of financial considerations, with any plans to be revisited at a later stage.

Family Courts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by what mechanism children's views are represented in the family court system. [63452]

Mr Djanogly: Where the court is proposing to make, vary or discharge (i) an order under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for contact, residence, a specific issue or a prohibited steps order (private law cases) and this is opposed by any party to the proceedings, or (ii) an order under Part IV of the Act for a care or supervision order or other connected matters (public law cases) then the court must have regard to the factors set out at section 1(3) of the Act, commonly known as the 'welfare checklist'. Ascertaining the wishes and feelings of the child concerned, in the light of their age and understanding, is one of those factors.

The court can seek the help of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS or CAFCASS Cymru in Wales) to fulfil its responsibility to take account of the ascertainable wishes and feelings of children who are the subject of family proceedings. CAFCASS or CAFCASS Cymru officers will meet with children and families, and report to the court in order to fulfil this role.

In cases where there are disputes between parents about future arrangements for their children, more than one meeting may need to take place. The court also has powers under the Family Procedure Rules 2010 to make a child a party to the proceedings, enabling the child to have separate legal representation, where the circumstances of the case dictate that this will be in the child's best interests.

In public law cases, where a local authority has made an application to take a child into care, the court will appoint a CAFCASS or CAFCASS Cymru officer to the role of guardian for the child. Children's guardians will represent the interests of the child in court, and will also instruct a solicitor to represent the child in circumstances where the child is too young, or is unable to do so themselves.

Where a court determines any question in relation to the upbringing of a child, the Children Act 1989 requires the court to make the welfare of the child its paramount consideration. The wishes and feelings of the child, so

far as these are ascertainable, are an important consideration but will not necessarily be the determining factor in any decision made by the court.

Family Courts: Mediation

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on enabling legally-aided mediation in relation to family disputes to include the agreement of a child support arrangement in addition to the resolution of the dispute for which legal aid was granted; what assessment he has made of the interrelationship of legally-aided family mediation and child maintenance support services to be provided by the Department for Work and Pensions; and if he will make a statement. [63544]

Mr Djanogly: Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill, which we introduced on 21 June, legal aid will remain available for mediation in private family law cases, which includes disputes about financial provision for children. The Ministry of Justice, Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education are working together, as we develop our respective plans to support families, to ensure that the systems for supporting separating parents are co-ordinated.

Family Courts: Telephone Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people made use of family court call centres in 2010-11; and what information his Department holds on the types of subjects on which advice was sought. [63453]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service does not have a contact centre function dedicated to dealing with family court queries. However we are currently piloting the use of contact centres to deal with the whole range of county court business and exploring how we can develop this type of facility for our business more generally.

In April 2010 a telephony helpdesk pilot was set up to test the feasibility of centralised call handling. The pilot was based at Coventry county court and from April 2010 until January 2011 managed all telephone inquiries for county courts including Coventry, Nuneaton, Stratford, Rugby and Warwick. In addition, in January 2011 the helpdesk began to take telephone inquiries for Croydon county court.

For the period April 2010 to March 2011, the helpdesk received a total 62,978 calls. This figure represents the number of calls received for both civil and family business. Information on the number or proportion of calls which related to family business is not held. All family business calls with the exception of adoption inquiries, which are referred back to specialist teams in courts, were dealt with at the helpdesk.

In parallel with this pilot we have also established a centralised telephone call function for all county court work in two other areas. In Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley a central contact centre dealt with approximately 129,000 calls between April 2010 and March 2011. In Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk a central contact centre answered approximately 210,000 calls during the same period. Again we do not have a breakdown of the split of calls between civil and family work.

Family Courts: Termination of Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal advisers have *(a)* resigned and *(b)* been made (i) compulsorily and (ii) voluntarily redundant from family courts in 2010-11. [63450]

Mr Djanogly: In Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS), legal advisers are trained and work multi-jurisdictionally across adult crime, youth and family courts. While a legal adviser may specialise in family work they often still work on other types of cases and for this reason it is not possible to give figures for legal advisers who have left family courts in isolation. The following figures relate to legal advisers in all jurisdictions who left HMCS in 2010-11.

(a) 12 resignations

(b) (i) No compulsory redundancies

(b) (ii) No voluntary redundancies

While no legal advisers left through voluntary or compulsory redundancy, HMCS ran a Voluntary Early Departure Scheme, with terms similar to voluntary redundancy as stipulated in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, under which 88 legal advisers left in 2010-11.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans for redundancies amongst managers of legal advisers in family courts. [63451]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently no plans to make legal advisers in the family proceedings court redundant.

Homicide: Young Offenders

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons aged 16 to 18 at the time of conviction for *(a)* murder or *(b)* manslaughter that were subsequently released on licence have been recalled to custody following commission of a further offence or for a breach of the licence in each of the last 10 years. [63182]

Mr Blunt: There were nine offenders aged 16 to 18 years when convicted for murder and subsequently released on licence who were recalled to custody following a breach of licence conditions in 2010. Of these, two had committed a further offence, neither of which were defined as serious further offences as set out in 'Probation Circular 22/2008—Revised Notification and Review Procedures for Serious Further Offences'.

During 2010, no offenders aged between 16 and 18 years at conviction were recalled to custody while on licence for manslaughter.

Detailed data on recalls before 2010 are not held centrally in an electronic format. To provide these data would require a manual trawl of individual prison records and incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons aged *(a)* under 16, (b) 16 to 18 and *(c)* 18 to 21 years at the time of conviction for (i) murder or (ii) manslaughter in each of the last 10 years, released on licence, breached the conditions of that licence and are not in custody; [63383]

(2) how many persons aged under 16 years at the time of conviction for *(a)* murder or *(b)* manslaughter and subsequently released on licence have been recalled to custody following commission of a further offence or for a breach of the licence in each of the last 10 years. [63384]

Mr Blunt: There are no offenders who were aged under 22 years at the time of conviction for murder or manslaughter who were subsequently released during 2010 on licence and recalled to custody following a breach of licence conditions who are not currently in custody.

There were no offenders aged under 16 years when convicted for murder who were released on licence during 2010 and subsequently recalled to custody following a breach of licence conditions in 2010.

There was one offender aged under 16 when convicted for manslaughter and subsequently released on licence during 2010 who was recalled to custody for poor behaviour which constituted a breach of licence conditions. No further offence was committed.

Detailed data before 2010 on recalled offenders returned to custody are not held centrally in an electronic format. A manual trawl of prisoner files would be required to obtain these data; this would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Miscarriages of Justice

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will make an assessment of the performance of the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service in assisting victims of miscarriages of justice to access appropriate medical support and counselling; [63724]

(2) what criteria the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service uses to determine the medical support and counselling required by service users; and who is responsible for making any medical diagnosis that is required; [63843]

(3) how many service users the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service helped to access appropriate counselling in each year since its inception. [63844]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service funds the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service organisation for a total of £150,000 per year. Access to appropriate health and counselling provision is central to the support provided by the organisation to all clients and cuts across all strands of their advice.

Regarding psychiatric support, all staff are trained in mental health safety and access personal and professional support from Tavistock clinic. Some clients are referred following release for a free mental health assessment which is passed to their GP. The GP will make an onward referral for specialist support (including family therapy) as necessary. In the majority of cases the organisation is able to draw on probono support in relation to diagnosis via Dr Adrian Grounds, a leading forensic psychiatrist and member of the organisation's advisory group.

Information since the organisation's inception is not available. However, I can confirm that the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service made 30 referrals in the last three years. In general terms the organisation is content that all clients who need or request an assessment are seen, mainly by Dr Adrian Grounds.

Prisoners

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the number of prisoners per 100,000 head of population in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [63605]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of prisoners per 100,000 head of population for each region in England and Wales using the prison population as at 30 June 2010 and the Office for National Statistics 2010 mid-year population estimates. Prisoners are not necessarily held in their home region so these rates partly reflect the geographic distribution of prisons.

Region	*Prison population*	*Prisoners per 100,000 population*
North-east	4,896	188
North-west	12,604	182
Yorkshire and Humber	9,328	176
East midlands	10,249	229
West midlands	8,473	155
Eastern	9,205	158
London	6,875	88
South-east	14,344	168
South-west	6,305	120
Wales	2,723	91

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Human Rights

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the provision of legal aid to prisoners in respect of human rights cases in each of the last five years. [64074]

Mr Djanogly: The information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost; a matter involving human rights can be brought under various categories of law and the status of an individual as a prisoner is not specifically recorded within those categories of law.

Prisoners can receive legal aid within the prison law category of legal aid funding, subject to a means and merits test. This covers advice and assistance on matters relating to treatment, discipline and sentence and advocacy assistance at prison discipline and parole board hearings. The total cost of legal aid in the prison law category of funding for each of the past five years is as follows:

	£ million
2005-06	8,742
2006-07	12,489
2007-08	15,992
2008-09	21,606
2009-10	25,211

Prisoners: Repatriation

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which countries the UK has an agreement to automatically deport foreign prisoners to serve their sentence in their country of origin. [63846]

Mr Blunt: All prisoner transfer agreements (PTA) to which the United Kingdom is a signatory require the agreement of the other jurisdiction before a transfer is effected. None provide for the unfettered transfer of a sentenced prisoner to their country of origin. Most current agreements also require the consent of the prisoner but a number do not.

The Government believe that wherever possible foreign national prisoners should serve their sentences in their own country and Government policy is to negotiate prisoner transfer agreements wherever they can. However, they cannot compel other states to conclude such agreements or to take back their nationals for the purpose of serving a prison sentence.

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons and also has bilateral agreements with Rwanda and Libya which do not require the consent of the prisoner. However, the additional protocol requires certain criteria to be met before transfer, specifically that a deportation order should be in place.

In December 2011 the United Kingdom will implement the EU PTA. This will require the receiving member state to accept a prisoner who meets the criteria for transfer and does not require the prisoner to consent. As a result of the EU PTA we expect to see a steady increase in the number of prisoners transferred to prisons in Europe.

The signatory countries to the additional protocol are listed as follows. However, very few signatory states operate the protocol.

Signatories to the additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Sweden
Switzerland
Macedonia
United Kingdom
Ukraine

Repossession Orders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many house repossession orders were issued in each county court area in each of the last 24 months. [63433]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice holds statistical information in relation to the numbers of mortgage and landlord possession claims which led to an order being made for all properties in each county court. These figures represent the numbers of claims leading to orders being made rather than the numbers of orders as they are more accurate, removing the double-counting of instances where a single claim leads to more than one order. They also provide a more meaningful measure of the number of homeowners who are subject to court repossession actions. The tables showing these figures by month from April 2009 to March 2011, the latest period for which figures are available, will be placed in the House Library.

Quarterly statistics for each county court are regularly published on the Ministry of Justice's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/civil-justice/mortgage-possession.htm

Sexual Offences: Criminal Injuries Compensation

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is given to Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) staff on *(a)* handling claims by victims of sexual assault and *(b)* the weight to give to reports from experts in such cases; what training CICA caseworkers must complete before undertaking their role; and if he will make a statement. [63620]

Mr Djanogly: CICA staff receive guidance to support them in handling all claims, including claims by victims of sexual assault, quickly, fairly, sensitively and courteously. In considering applications, due and proportionate weight is given to the range of evidence available. CICA caseworkers receive full training on the criminal injuries compensation scheme and its application.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority *(a)* a claim, *(b)* a claim relating to a sexual assault, *(c)* a claim relating to rape of a female and *(d)* a claim relating to rape of a male in each of the last five years; what proportion of claims in each such category reached a resolution resulting in the (i) payment and (ii) non-payment of compensation; and what the average time taken from the initiation of a claim in each category to its (A) settlement or (B) discontinuance was in each such year. [63621]

Mr Djanogly: The criminal injuries compensation scheme (the scheme), which is set by Parliament, compensates people based on the injuries they sustain not the crime of which they were a victim. The 'tariff of injuries', which is the part of the scheme that assigns specific injuries standard amounts of compensation, contains several injury descriptions that could apply to people who have been sexually assaulted, a subset of which are most likely to apply to victims of rape. The figures CICA are able to produce, which follow, are therefore based on claims where they paid awards for these injury descriptions.

			Awards paid for injuries headed non-consensual vaginal and/or anal intercourse; or non-consensual penile penetration of the vagina and/or anus and/or mouth	
	Total claims	*Awards paid for sexual assault injuries*	*Female*	*Male*
2010-11	61,292	4,581	2,004	323
Average time to resolve (calendar days)	417	310	321	323
2009-10	65,445	4,067	1,619	266
Average time to resolve	495	394	439	505
2008-09	57,753	4,378	1,667	268
Average time to resolve	492	414	438	551
2007-08	53,290	3,679	1,246	291
Average time to resolve	520	495	576	631
2006-07	60,861	3,035	883	157
Average time to resolve	537	470	539	644

Wormwood Scrubs Prison

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments were received from *(a)* the BBC and *(b)* other production companies for the filming of BBC Question Time at Wormwood Scrubs prison. [63845]

Mr Blunt: No money has yet been paid by Mentorn, the independent production company who make Question Time for the BBC, but HMP Wormwood Scrubs will be invoicing for the £2,000 cost of facilitating the programme.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 6 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Attorney-General what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by the Law Officers' Departments within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63569]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not currently record or publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in the supply chain for goods and services. They also do not discriminate by size of business because many small and medium enterprises can be found within larger supply chains.

The following table shows the proportion of invoices, from businesses of all sizes, paid by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which information is available:

Percentage of invoices paid in five days

	CPS	*SFO*
June 2010	26	29
July 2010	23	10
August 2010	32	22
September 2010	43	11
October 2010	38	16
November 2010	35	11
December 2010	31	12
January 2011	28	9
February 2011	29	5
March 2011	35	27
April 2011	16	n/a
May 2011	23	n/a

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSol) target is to pay undisputed invoices within 30 days from receipt and the Department does not hold any data on the numbers which were paid within five working days and could obtain such information only at a disproportionate cost. Records show that around 87% of all invoices were paid within 30 days in the last 12 months.

TSol is also responsible for processing invoices for the Attorney-General's Office and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate and figures for both organisations are included in the TSol records.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Mr Dodds: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the cost to the public purse was of holding the referendum on the alternative vote in Northern Ireland. [63629]

Mr Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Northern Ireland Office identified that a budget of £2.5 million was likely to be required by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to conduct the referendum on the parliamentary voting system. The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland will submit a claim to the Electoral Commission for its actual costs by 5 January 2012.

In addition to the expenditure by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, public awareness expenditure by the Electoral Commission on Northern Ireland specific campaigns was £200,000.

JUSTICE

Archway Tower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the length is of his Department's lease on Archway Tower, N19, in respect of *(a)* the Office of the Public Guardian and *(b)* the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service; and at what annual cost; [63865]

(2) what plans he has for the future use of Archway Tower, N19. [63866]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The leases for both the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) and the Children and Family Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) are due to expire on 24 March 2015. The annual cost for the rent and rates for each of the leases is as follows:

(1) OPG: £968,000

(2) CAFCASS: £148,000

The Ministry of Justice intends to vacate Archway Tower by the lease break date of 24 March 2012 as part of the work to rationalise its administrative estate.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the court service and *(b)* his Department of the translation of information from English into other languages in each of the last three financial years. [63831]

Mr Djanogly: The cost of translation of information from English into other languages in the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10 is shown in the following table. The information for 2010-11 will be available after the departmental annual resource accounts have been completed and audited.

£000

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Ministry of Justice	388	265
HM Courts Service	139	137
Tribunals Service	53	49
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	25	25
National Offender Management Service[2]	966	1,580

[1] Figures for the Office of Public Guardian are an estimate of the translation component within a wider category of expenditure.

[2] This figure includes translation costs as well as interpretation costs. The amounts are not separately recorded and can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost. Additionally, the NOMS figure excludes expenditure by the National Probation Service which is held locally by 42 probation boards and trusts who use separate and different accounting systems. Information could be determined only at disproportionate cost through examination of local records.

Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were given new identities on release from prison in each of the last 10 years. [63823]

Mr Blunt: There are a number of ways in which offenders may adopt or acquire a new identity on release from prison, ranging from the use of a pseudonym, to a change of name by deed poll to a full national identity change.

Information on the number of offenders who have been given a full national identity change on release from prison is not held centrally. To provide such information may put certain individuals at risk and would likely incur disproportionate cost.

Individuals who have been given a full national identity change are managed by the local police force for the area in which they reside. There is no distinction between those subject to national identity change on release from prison or those who are subject to it for other reasons.

A national identity change is given to some high risk individuals who are assessed as requiring management as 'protected persons'. Most of such individuals have assisted in the prosecution of others.

Where offenders adopt a pseudonym or change their name by deed poll or are given a national identity change, they continue to be managed as offenders and are required to comply with their licence conditions and other instructions given by their supervising officer.

Young Offenders

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons aged between 18 and 21 years when convicted for *(a)* murder or *(b)* manslaughter and subsequently released on licence were recalled to custody following (i) a further offence and (ii) a breach of the licence in each of the last 10 years. [62160]

Mr Blunt: There were 19 offenders aged between 18 and 21 years when convicted for murder and subsequently released on licence who were recalled to custody following a breach of licence conditions in 2010. Of these, four had committed a further offence.

During 2010, no offenders aged between 18 and 21 years old at conviction were recalled to custody while on licence for manslaughter.

Detailed data on recalls before 2010 are not held centrally in an electronic format. A manual trawl of prisoner files would be required to obtain these data; this would incur disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Capita

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has awarded to Capita since May 2010; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* net worth was of each contract. [62722]

Damian Green: Since May 2010 the Home Office and its Executive agencies have awarded one contract to Capita Resourcing Ltd to provide interim personnel. The value of this contract was £45,358 and this amount has now been spent.

Counter-terrorism: Finance

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation her Department has carried out on the work of organisations supported by Prevent Strategy funding between June 2007 and June 2009. [59743]

James Brokenshire: The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) commissioned two evaluations of Prevent funded initiatives in 2008. One was of the processes and procedures of community intervention projects. This covered financial and business management, governance, methodology and activities. It was not an evaluation of the impact or the effectiveness of interventions in preventing radicalisation but the results were used to inform decision making about the continuation of funding to projects. The second was a process evaluation of Channel, undertaken on behalf of OSCT by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) The results of this evaluation contributed to the national Channel guidance published in March 2010. For reasons of confidentiality these evaluations have not been published.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each organisation previously provided with funding under the Prevent Strategy which will receive no further funding on the grounds that it espouses extremist views. [59744]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not intend to name organisations that will no longer receive further funding because to do so could breach confidentiality. If organisations do not support the values of democracy, human rights, equality before the law and participation in society, then we will not fund them.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projects were undertaken by organisations provided with funding under the Prevent Strategy between June 2007 and June 2009. [59745]

James Brokenshire: During this period funding was provided under the Prevent strategy to public sector and community organisations for a wide range of projects. These included awareness raising, training courses, the Channel scheme and interventions for individuals vulnerable to radicalisation.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the name is of each organisation provided with funding under the Prevent Strategy between June 2007 and June 2009; where each such organisation was located; and how much each such organisation received and for what period. [59746]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not intend to name or identify the location of each organisation funded under the Prevent strategy because to do so

would breach confidentiality. Home Office total funding (including funding to the police) was £47 million in 2009-10 and £37 million in 2010-11.

Hazel Blears: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what process the views and values of organisations will be assessed in determining allocation of Prevent Strategy funding. [59753]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has written to local authorities, police services and other delivery partners to set out the principles they should apply so that Prevent funds do not go to extremist organisations. The detailed procedures to assess organisations are still being developed and will be provided to partners once finalised.

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries the UK has an agreement to automatically deport foreign prisoners to their country of origin once they have been released from custody. [63847]

Damian Green: The UK does not have any agreements with any countries to automatically deport foreign prisoners from the UK at the end of their custodial sentence. Individuals are considered on a case by case basis.

There are no countries to which the Government have a blanket approach of not returning foreign national prisoners.

The UK Border Agency seeks to deport from the UK foreign national offenders who meet the following criteria:

A court recommendation.

For non-European Economic Area nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only).

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

Domestic Violence

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces provide portable alarms to domestic abuse victims; and what the cost of such provision was in the last 12 months. [63777]

Nick Herbert: The provision of portable alarms is a decision for each police force. We do not collect this information centrally.

Drugs

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of co-operation between the Government and the Government of the Irish Republic in tackling web drug sales. [63403]

James Brokenshire: Officials from the Drugs and Alcohol Unit liaise with colleagues from the Irish Republic on the issue of web drug sales, particularly regarding the sale of new psychoactive substances. Discussions have been held and information shared at working level meetings of the British Irish Council and at the Horizontal Drugs Group in Brussels.

Hunting Act 2004

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* fines and *(c)* cautions there were for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area in 2010. [64032]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

The number of offenders cautioned, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, sentenced and fined at all courts, by police force area in England and Wales, 2010, for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 can be viewed in the table.

Offenders cautioned, and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and fined at all courts, under the Hunting Act 2004, by police force area[1], England and Wales, 2010[2, 3]

Force	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Of which: Fined*
Avon and Somerset	—	1	1	1	1
Cheshire	—	1	—	—	—
Cleveland	3	2	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	1	1	1	1
Essex	—	3	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	1	1	1	1
Humberside	—	8	8	8	8
Kent	—	5	5	5	5
Lancashire	3	2	2	2	2
Merseyside	—	1	1	1	1
North Yorkshire	1	14	9	9	9
Nottinghamshire	—	2	2	2	1
South Yorkshire	—	1	1	1	—
Surrey	2	2	1	1	—
Thames Valley	1	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	—	3	3	3	3
Wiltshire	—	2	1	1	1
North Wales	1	—	—	—	—
Total England and Wales	11	49	36	36	33

[1] Only those police force areas are shown in the table where data are given.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Identity and Passport Office: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Liverpool Passport Office staff recruited under the Friends and Family Scheme were recruited after March 2009. [64153]

Damian Green: All 14 of the staff recruited under the Liverpool Friends and Family scheme from 2008 were appointed between 30 March 2009 and 22 March 2010.

Identity and Passport Office: Newport

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the remaining posts at Newport Passport Office are open to applications from all staff based in Newport. [64071]

Damian Green *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The majority of staff currently employed at the Newport Passport Office will be able to apply for the remaining posts. A small number of staff based in Newport work for the Identity and Passport Service HQ team. They are not eligible for the new posts as their current roles are not at risk.

Illegal Immigrants

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been *(a)* found and *(b)* deported from a residence in (i) Worcestershire and (ii) Redditch in the last five years. [63238]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency arrested three individuals over the last five financial years, for all immigration offences, on enforcement visits to addresses identified as residential, located in Redditch and, separately, in Worcestershire outside Redditch. Of those one individual was removed from the UK after being resident in the same location.

Please note all data are sourced from management information tools and are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Illegal Immigrants: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants resident at addresses in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were *(a)* identified and *(b)* deported in the last five years. [63886]

Damian Green: The data requested are not available as part of UK Border Agency's standard reports. Information on illegal immigrants encountered and removals is recorded on two separate databases. To obtain the requested information would require data matching between these two systems which would exceed the cost threshold.

We are however able to identify those cases encountered (i.e. served papers) with a last known address in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, who were subsequently removed. This does not mean they were necessarily encountered in the constituency. The information is as follows:

	Served IS151A	*Subsequently removed*
2006	13	4
2007	50	13
2008	50	6
2009	49	11
2010	39	8
2011[1]	14	0
Total	215	42

[1] Data for 2011 cover 1 January to 30 June 2011.

Note:

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration plans to reply to the letter of 18 May 2011 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr T S Zivane. [63994]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 5 July 2011.

National Policing Improvement Agency

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the capacity of the Association of Chief Police Officers to assume the functions of the National Police Improvement Agency. [63774]

Nick Herbert: There are no proposals to transfer any of the National Police Improvement Agency's functions to the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Offenders: Foreign Nationals

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 685-86W, on offenders: foreign nationals, how many people are on the watch list; and what the country of origin is of each such person. [63849]

Damian Green: The UK holds a watchlist of adverse information and intelligence drawn from a variety of sources, including the police. The system is used by UK Border Agency staff for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime. It is long-standing policy not to discuss either the specific data held on the watchlist or the source of the data as to do so would be counterproductive.

Organised Crime

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime alerts were issued by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63723]

Nick Herbert: The number of alerts issued by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) for each year was as follows:

	Number
2010-11	114
2009-10	76
2008-09	71
2007-08	46
2006-07	24

SOCA publishes information on the number of alerts issued each year in the SOCA annual report and accounts, available at:

www.soca.gov.uk

Organised Crime: Exclusion Orders

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were excluded following a recommendation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63720]

Nick Herbert: A breakdown of individuals excluded from the UK since 2006 following a recommendation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency is as follows:

	Number
2006	0
2007	3
2008	10
2009	11
2010	4
2011	0

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of foreign national prisoners who did not have leave to remain in the UK prior to their imprisonment. [64038]

Damian Green: In order to answer this question the UK Border Agency would need to cross-reference individual records with the National Offender Management Service. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Raed Salah

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the circumstances in which Raed Salah entered the UK; and if she will make a statement. [63261]

Damian Green *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* Raed Salah was excluded from the United Kingdom on 23 June. He entered the United Kingdom on 25 June when he should have been stopped and refused entry. Salah was arrested on 28 June by UK Border Agency officers and is being detained while we seek to deport him.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), has ordered an urgent review of procedures to ascertain how he was allowed to enter the country and to learn the lessons from this situation and seek to ensure it cannot happen again.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on placing advertisements in newspapers in England in each year since 2005. [63392]

Chris Grayling: Information is not collated centrally and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Child Care Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households would receive *(a)* increased and *(b)* reduced childcare support after the full implementation of universal credit if estimated increases in take-up are removed from the calculations. [63811]

Maria Miller: The details of the child care element in universal credit are not yet finalised. The impacts of the proposed child care policy will be set out in future iterations of the universal credit impact assessment.

Child Maintenance

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child support cases there are in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Newport East constituency; and how many such cases involve (i) a parent with care and (ii) a non-resident parent. [64030]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child support cases there are in (a) Wales and (b) Newport East constituency; and how many such cases involve (i) a parent with care and (ii) a non-resident parent. [64030]

The number of live and assessed cases in the quarter ending March 2011 where the parent with care lives in Wales is 71,110. The number of live and assessed cases in the same period where the parent with care lives in Newport East parliamentary constituency is 1,950.

For a case to be classed as live and assessed they must involve both a non-resident parent and a parent with care.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Community Care Grants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the effects of his Department's proposals for the localisation of community care grants and crisis loans on *(a)* distribution of funding, *(b)* administrative costs and *(c)* the standard of decision-making processes; and if he will make a statement. [63485]

Steve Webb: We are not localising community care grants and crisis loans, we are replacing them with new local welfare assistance delivered by local authorities in England and the devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales. The new provision will be better targeted and offer better value for money.

The programme funding for the new local welfare assistance will be the same as the Department for Work and Pensions allocation at the point responsibility is transferred.

The White Paper published in December 2010—"Universal Credit: welfare that works"—made clear that any new burdens would be funded.

The delivery of local assistance will mean that any decisions made at a local level are the most appropriate ones for that area.

These issues, and more, are covered in the Government's response to its call for evidence, "Local support to replace Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses" published on 23 June. It is available in the Library and can be accessed on the Department for Work and Pensions website:

www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2011/local-support-replace-ccg-cl.shtml

Departmental Manpower

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to publish monthly information on changes in the numbers of employees of his Department's agencies, categorised by *(a)* seniority, *(b)* voluntary redundancy, *(c)* natural wastage and *(d)* involuntary redundancy. [61716]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to transparency and the availability of data and are currently exploring options for the more frequent publication of this type of workforce management information across the civil service.

Work force management information for the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies will continue to be published via the annual civil service employment survey, pending the outcome of the review.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62991]

Chris Grayling: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars for DWP is published in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses. The following details the spend for this Department:

	£
2005-06	390,700
2006-07	407,800
2007-08	415,900
2008-09	428,800
2009-10	506,726

Details of the DWP costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and due for release in July 2011.

Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to individual DWP ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data.

Information relating to the number of DWP ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on-demand' Ministerial Car Service on 6 September 2010 and up until 31 March 2011 is 293.

The Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, included changes to the circumstances in which Ministers would be entitled to a car and driver. The number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers would be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other considerations. Other Ministers would be entitled to use cars from a Ministerial Car Pool as required.

All Ministers are encouraged to walk or use public transport wherever practicable.

Housing Benefit

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people in *(a)* London, *(b)* Birmingham, *(c)* Leeds, *(d)* Manchester and *(e)* Liverpool claimed shared room rent housing benefit in 2010-11; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent numbers following the introduction of the 35 years old age threshold. [63334]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available for 2010-11.

The following table presents estimates of the number of local housing allowance cases assessed at the shared accommodation rate in March 2010, together with estimates of the numbers of claimants who would be affected by the extension of the age threshold for the shared accommodation rate.

Only those who are single and aged under 25 are classed as a young person under the current regulations, but couples and claimants aged over 25 who live in shared accommodation are also assessed at the lower rate.

Only single claimants aged 25 to 34 and currently renting self-contained accommodation will be affected by the extension of the age threshold.

Area	*Claimants assessed at shared accommodation rate aged under 25*	*Claimants aged over 25 but assessed at the shared accommodation rate*	*Claimants aged 25 to 34 affected by extension of the age threshold for the shared accommodation rate*
London	7,430	21,980	11,780

Area	Claimants assessed at shared accommodation rate aged under 25	Claimants aged over 25 but assessed at the shared accommodation rate	Claimants aged 25 to 34 affected by extension of the age threshold for the shared accommodation rate
Birmingham	1,360	2,310	1,410
Leeds	1,500	1,680	1,270
Manchester	910	1,040	1,000
Liverpool	900	910	1,450

Source:
Equality impact assessment of the increase to the shared accommodation rate age threshold, available on the DWP website at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/eia-hb-shared-accommodation-age-threshold.pdf

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff were appointed on permanent contracts by Jobcentre Plus in each of the last four years; [63527]

(2) how many staff appointed on permanent contracts by Jobcentre Plus were *(a)* upgraded from fixed-term contracts, *(b)* transferred from other positions in his Department and *(c)* transferred from outside his Department under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 in each of the last four years. [63528]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many staff were appointed on permanent contracts by Jobcentre Plus in each of the last four years; how many staff appointed on permanent contracts by Jobcentre Plus were (a) upgraded from fixed-term contracts (b) transferred from other positions in his Department and (c) transferred from outside his Department under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations in each of the last four years. These are issues that fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In response to the first question, the information in the following table showing staff externally appointed on permanent contracts in each of the last four years is set out on a staff in post basis i.e. employees are counted as a single unit irrespective of the hours they work. The data covers the period April to March in each of the last four years and is the latest information available.

	Permanent recruitment
2010-11	7
2009-10	2,602
2008-09	5,104
2007-08	2,612

The data being reported is drawn from an internal Departmental system used to record and monitor staffing details.

We are unable to provide the information requested in the second question in relation to each of the three points you are raising without disproportionate cost.

Maternity Pay

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will bring forward amendments to the guidance on statutory maternity pay and stillbirths to align it with the legal definition of stillbirth of 24 completed weeks of pregnancy. [63918]

Maria Miller: The current guidance on statutory maternity pay and stillbirths is fully aligned to the legal definition of stillbirth. The DWP and Directgov websites state that:

"If your baby is stillborn after the start of the 25th week of your pregnancy you are entitled to the same Maternity Allowance or Statutory Maternity Pay you would have received if your child was born alive".

This applies to births occurring in the 25th week of a pregnancy or later, or to put it another way after 24 full weeks of pregnancy have been completed.

Poverty: Children

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in a household which included a couple in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [63716]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. HBAI uses household (rather than family) income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

The following table shows the number and proportion of children living in couple families in households with income below 60% of contemporary median income before housing costs (BHC). Data are provided for each year between 1997-98 and 2009-10. This information is not available on a quarterly basis.

Table: Numbers and proportions of children in couple families in households with equivalised incomes below 60% of contemporary median income before housing costs (BHC)

	Number (million)	Proportion (%)
1997-98	2.0	21
1998-99	2.0	20
1999-2000	1.8	19
2000-01	1.7	17
2001-02	1.7	17
2002-03	1.7	17
2003-04	1.7	17
2004-05	1.6	16
2005-06	1.7	18
2006-07	1.7	18
2007-08	1.8	18
2008-09	1.7	18
2009-10	1.7	17

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income (HBAI) data available at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk-asd-index.php?paqe=hbai_arc
2. Data are sourced from the Family Resources survey and cover Great Britain up to 1997-98 and the United Kingdom from 1998-99, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years.
3. Disposable household income is adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
4. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. Numbers of people in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
6. Figures have been presented on a before housing cost (BHC) basis. For BHC figures, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income.
7. The household level poverty threshold is defined as the 60% of contemporary median equivalised disposable household income.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment-related benefit claimants and job seekers live more than 10 miles from their nearest Jobcentre Plus. [63311]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of regulation 3 of the Social Security Benefits Up-rating Regulations 2011 on the level of state pension of retired people resident overseas; and what consideration he has given to reviewing that regulation. [64202]

Steve Webb: The UK State Pension is payable world-wide but is only up-rated abroad where there is a legal requirement or reciprocal agreement to do so. A well known court case challenging the UK's position was heard by the European Court of Human Rights' Grand Chamber in September 2009 and the court's judgment of March 2010 was in the UK's favour. We continue to take our obligations under the terms of the European Convention on Human Rights seriously and are satisfied that we are complying. We therefore have no plans to make any changes to the current arrangements that allow for the exportability and up-rating of UK State Pensions.

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason he has not accepted the recommendations contained in the Turner Report on Pensions for a 10 year notice period for women retiring at 66 years from 2018; and if he will make a statement. [62687]

Steve Webb: We need to act quickly to reduce the increasing costs imposed on the state pension system by the increases in longevity. Since the 2004 based projections which the Pensions Commission used life expectancy projections for people reaching 65 have been revised upwards by a year and a half.

It has not been possible to give a notice period similar to those given for previous increases in state pension age. Under the new timetable in the Pensions Bill, the increase from 63 to 65 in women's state pension age will not start until April 2016 and no one will have a state pension age of 66 until 2020.

If we were to give at least 15 years' notice as recommended by the Pensions Commission in their second report, "A New Pension Settlement for the Twenty-First Century", this would mean not changing the state pension age until 2025.

Unemployment Benefits

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people claiming out-of-work benefit lost their entitlement in each local authority area in each of the last 18 months. [61662]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State for Work and for Pensions has asked me to reply to your question regarding how many and what proportion of people claiming out-of-work benefit lost their entitlement in each local authority area in each of the last 18 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information on the numbers and proportions of people who have lost their entitlement to Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) for each local authority covering the period from August 2009 to January 2011 is available. This has been placed in the Library.

The source of the JSA information is DWP Information Directorate: Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database. Figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/sanction/sanction/LIVE/tabtool.html

The Tabulation Tool and instructions on how to use it can be found on the Departmental website here:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

I also provide data below for the numbers and proportions of people claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA) who have been found fit for work. The latest data available covers the period from October 2008 to August 2010. I am only able to provide this data at a national level due to the disproportionate cost of obtaining the data for each local authority.

	Fit for work	
Month of claim start	*Number*	*Percentage*
October 2008	3,600	39
November 2008	17,500	39
December 2008	15,200	38
January 2009	21,000	39
February 2009	19,800	40
March 2009	23,500	41
April 2009	21,800	42
May-2009	22,000	42
June 2009	22,800	40
July 2009	22,900	40
August 2009	20,500	40
September 2009	22,000	40

Month of claim start	Fit for work	
	Number	Percentage
October 2009	21,500	40
November 2009	20,800	40
December 2009	17,000	38
January 2010	22,200	39
February 2010	21,600	40
March 2010	23,500	39
April 2010	20,900	38
May-2010	19,800	38
June 2010	20,500	36
July 2010	20,100	35
August 2010	17,700	33
Total	458,500	39

Note:
Totals may not sum due to rounding method used.

The source of the ESA table is Table 1 of the publication "Employment And Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment by Health Condition and Functional Impairment: Official Statistics", and presents initial assessment results for claims to August 2010.

I hope this is helpful.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Exemptions

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of extending the maximum period for council tax exemptions for properties that are uninhabitable due to ongoing renovation. [63885]

Robert Neill: The Government have no plans to extend the council tax statutory exemption period for properties that are uninhabitable due to ongoing renovation.

Local authorities already have powers to give local council tax discounts.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62079]

Robert Neill: From May 2010 to May 2011, special advisers claimed £509.88 in expenses. This compares with £1,953 in 2007-08, £4,407 in 2008-09 and £1,328 in 2009-10 claimed by special advisers under the last Administration. DCLG has no unpaid special advisers.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt of invoice in the last 12 months for which information is available. [63567]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many small and medium-sized enterprises can be found within larger supply chains.

The following table sets out the Department's overall performance against the five working day target during the last 12 months:

	Number of invoices paid on time (within five days of receipt)	Percentage paid on time	Number of invoices paid late (after five days of receipt)	Percentage paid late
June 2010	2,985	80.03	596	19.97
July 2010	2,795	79.25	580	20.75
August 2010	2,479	79.43	510	20.57
September 2010	2,420	83.55	398	16.45
October 2010	2,676	83.18	450	16.82
November 2010	2,513	81.93	454	18.07
December 2010	2,030	82.12	363	17.88
January 2011	2,097	81.12	396	18.88
February 2011	1,992	79.07	417	20.93
March 2011	2,335	75.89	563	24.11
April 2011	1,751	79.10	366	20.90
May 2011	1,411	84.05	225	15.95

It should be noted that the new five-day target is more demanding than the previous 10-day target. We are taking steps to improve our performance on meeting these new targets.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress his Department has made in encouraging small businesses to bid for Government contracts. [60188]

Robert Neill: The Department has an action plan to help open up departmental contracts to small and medium sized enterprises. This has been published on our website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/jobscontracts/procurement/smallmediumenterprises/

Although referring to organisations as small and medium enterprises, the scope of the packages announced includes voluntary/community organisations and social enterprises within its remit.

Please note that 26% of the Department's contracts were with small and medium sized enterprises in 2010-11.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provisions in respect of behavioural standards have been included in procurement contracts issued by his Department since May 2010. [61682]

Robert Neill: The Department's Standard Terms and Conditions of Contract contain clauses requiring adherence to specific legislative standards such as equality, environmental and health and safety. Each individual contract may set out further behavioural standards dependent upon the nature of the requirement (e.g. the departmental standard terms have separate optional sections relating to the procurement of goods, services and consultancy).

Empty Property

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwellings there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and what proportion of all dwellings this represented in each case. [64126]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House, a table showing the number of empty dwellings in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years; and what proportion of all dwellings this represented in each case. The data are as reported by local authorities and are a snapshot taken in the autumn each year.

In this answer, empty dwellings includes both long-term and short-term empty dwellings.

Enterprise Zones

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a Barnett consequential has been made to the devolved Administrations as a result of the policy to create enterprise zones. [60642]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 689W.

Fire Services: Finance

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will ensure that his Department provides information to prospective new fire authorities on future grant funding, including support on grant implications, to facilitate the creation of merged fire authorities. [63973]

Robert Neill: We are currently undertaking the local government resource review and we do not know how decisions on that might affect distribution from 2013-14 onwards. Even if there was no change in the current system, we would expect to update data sets used in the formula, to use different control totals and for there to be changes brought about from floor damping levels. These alone could create large variance in the figures. We cannot therefore provide information to prospective new fire authorities on future grant funding.

Green Belt

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what priority he gives to the preservation of green belt boundaries; and if he will make a statement. [64014]

Greg Clark: The coalition agreement explicitly states that we will maintain green belt protection. The green belt has a valuable role in stopping urban sprawl and providing a green lung around towns and cities.

Indeed, our proposed abolition of the unpopular regional strategies through the Localism Bill will stop the top-down pressure to remove the green belt in 30 areas across England.

Homes and Communities Agency: Procurement

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, *(c)* supplier and *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction entry was of each transaction undertaken by the Homes and Communities Agency using the Government Procurement Card in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [61804]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 23 June 2011]:* A table providing a breakdown of expenditure by the Homes and Communities Agency using Government Procurement Cards for 2008-09 and 2009-10 has been placed in the Library of the House. This includes *(a)* date of purchase, *(b)* amount, and *(c)* supplier, *(d)* level 3 or enhanced transaction details are not held centrally. Each transaction does have an expenditure type which is a broad description of the type of goods purchased.

The data cover the periods 1 December 2008 (when the Homes and Communities Agency commenced business) to 31 March 2009; and 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Housing: Water Supply

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to promote water efficiency in the building of new homes; and if he will make a statement. [63940]

Andrew Stunell: Part G of the Building Regulations already sets water efficiency standards for new homes which require that, on average, their water consumption is no more than 125 litres per person per day (average national use is approximately 150 litres per person per day). The voluntary Code for Sustainable Homes promotes higher water efficiency standards. Homes funded by the Homes and Communities Agency are required to reach level three of the code which includes a water efficiency requirement of 105 litres per person per day.

Local Authorities: Older People

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to monitor *(a)* new charges and *(b)* changes in the level of charges for older people's services by local authorities. [62957]

Robert Neill: Local authorities are democratically elected and, as such, they are independent from central Government and are responsible for their own finances. It is for individual councils in consultation with their communities to decide on what services they provide for older people.

Notwithstanding that, Ministers believe that councils should not be looking to increasing charges simply to deliver essential frontline services, or as an alternative to cutting out waste.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps he has taken to ensure that the Government's guidance to local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) on equality in LEP board nominations is given consideration by LEPs; [63951]

(2) what mechanisms he has put in place to ensure that the nominations process for local enterprise partnerships boards is open, fair and transparent; [63952]

(3) whether he is taking steps to ensure that local enterprise partnerships boards are representative of their communities. [63953]

Greg Clark: The Government expect that local areas are fair and transparent in developing their boards, and give due consideration to issues of representation, so as to result in a well-balanced board which suits the needs of the local area.

The Government have asked that all local enterprise partnerships provide formal confirmation of their board selection to Ministers.

Local Government Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to each local authority through the local services support grant in 2011-12. [62672]

Robert Neill: Local Services Support Grant is unhypothecated funding to local authorities, for them to use it to meet locally identified priorities. A table giving total allocations to each council for 2011-12 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department uses resource equalisation as part of the methodology to determine the allocation of local government grants. [63997]

Robert Neill: The distribution of formula grant takes into account the relative costs of providing services between areas (largely based on its socio-economic and demographic characteristics) together with its relative ability to raise funding locally (based on the number of band-D council tax equivalent properties within an authority's area). We then guarantee that every authority will receive at least a minimum percentage change (the 'floor') in its formula grant year on year on a like for like basis. In order to pay for this we scale back changes above the floor for other authorities.

No other grants to local government take into account an authority's relative ability to raise funding locally.

Local Government Finance: Voluntary Organisations

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to monitor changes in the level of financial support by local authorities to the voluntary sector through *(a)* grants and *(b)* contracts. [62961]

Andrew Stunell: The Department is not formally monitoring changes in the financial support by local authorities to the voluntary and community sector.

Local authorities are expected to publish all expenditure over £500. The new Code of Recommended Practice for local authorities on data transparency will set out minimum expectations of what data should be published. Spend data over £500, including payment to the voluntary and community sector, will be part of that minimum expectation.

We want to encourage authorities and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary groups in the running of public services. In that context, we recently consulted on a single page of new best value statutory guidance that set out reasonable expectations on how best value authorities should work with voluntary and community groups when facing difficult funding decisions. Authorities have to have regard to this guidance and can be challenged to show that they have done so. The consultation closed on 14 June and we will publish final guidance as early as possible this summer.

Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of contracts issued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies for which he is responsible were awarded to small and medium-sized enterprises in (i) Scotland, (ii) South Lanarkshire and (iii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [60203]

Robert Neill: To answer this question in full would entail disproportionate cost as it would involve examining all purchases. However from our central record of contracts greater than £20,000 we have identified one contract in Scotland with a small and medium sized company based near Glasgow. This was 1%, as a proportion of the total number of such contracts issued in the last financial year.

As part of my Department's transparency initiative, all spending to suppliers over £500 is published online; this information may also assist the hon. Member.

Trade Unions

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any staff of his Department are entitled to work full-time on trade union activities while receiving a departmental salary. [60253]

Robert Neill: The Department pays the salary and related costs (travel and subsistence etc.) for a number of DCLG staff undertaking trade unions activities in this Department on a full and part-time basis. These are arrangements that the current Government have inherited from the last Administration.

The Department does not specify the number of full-time or part-time trade union representative roles within the organisation. Rather, it sets a maximum level of facility time which is available for trade union activities and a maximum number of full-time and part-time roles which are permitted within that allocation. Currently, the maximum departmental limit within the overall facility time allocation is for two full time roles and four part time roles. These are fully utilised. Against that backdrop, the position is set out in the following table.

	Department for Communities and Local Government
Overall 2011-12 facility time allocation (days)	1,000
Maximum permitted full time representatives	2
Actual number of full time representatives	2
Maximum permitted part-time representatives	4
Actual number of part-time representatives	4

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to *(a)* ensure regional co-operation between local authorities in planning for Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites and *(b)* reinstate the obligation on local authorities to provide such sites. [62755]

Robert Neill: We are introducing a duty to co-operate through the Localism Bill to ensure that local authorities continue to work together after regional strategies are abolished. This will require local planning authorities, county councils and other public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in the planning process.

The majority of new Traveller sites are small private ones provided by Travellers themselves. This meets community aspirations on tenure and their small size can aid integration with the settled community. Delivery of such sites is most appropriately managed through planning system. The Government published their proposed new planning policy for Traveller sites for consultation on 13 April. Members are welcome to submit their views.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans any further changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant between 2012 and 2015. [58767]

Norman Baker: In its business plan, the Department for Transport has committed to review the future distribution of Bus Service Operators Grant by March 2012. The Department is working with bus operators and local government to look at smarter ways of delivering bus subsidy, and is keen to see what can be developed by consensus between local authorities and operators. An announcement will be made in due course.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to his Department and its predecessors was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62996]

Mike Penning: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in the annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses.

2005-06:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2006-07:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070726/wmstext/70726m0004.htm

2007-08:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2008-09:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009-10:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and are due for release in July 2011.

East Coast Railway Line

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he has met representatives of East Coast Trains to discuss the transfer of the East Coast Trains call centre from Newcastle to India; and if he will make a statement. [62667]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* Ministers and officials from the Department for Transport were made aware of the decision by East Coast Main Line Ltd to retender its contract for the supply of call centre services to the company. However all contractual issues in relation to the provision of those services are operational matters for East Coast Main Line Ltd and Directly Operated Railways Ltd and Ministers were not involved in any decisions.

East Coast Railway Line: Legal Advice

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* legal advice he received and *(b)* consultation he undertook on the transfer of the East Coast Trains call centre from Newcastle to India. [62617]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The Department for Transport has not sought any legal advice or undertaken any consultations into this matter. Decisions on the contractual arrangements for the provision of call centre services to East Coast Main Line Ltd are operational matters for the company.

Parking: Fines

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether car rental companies will be able to transfer liability for parking fines from the registered keeper to the driver of a vehicle following implementation of the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill; [58928]

(2) what representations he has received on proposals to allow an exemption for the car rental industry from provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Bill that will make rental companies liable for paying parking fines incurred by their customers on private land; and if he will make a statement. [58929]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has received a number of representations from one car rental company.

Currently, if a vehicle has been parked on private land, and a contract has been created, that contract is between the driver at the time and the landowner (or their agent). The proposed provisions in the Protection of Freedoms Bill mean that the vehicle keeper should pay the parking-related charge if they were the driver at the time. If they were not the driver at the time they may give the name and address of the driver to the landowner or their agent for them to pursue payment from the driver. This would apply equally to any vehicle keeper, whether a car rental company or private owner.

Alternatively, and subject to the terms of the contract between the hirer and the vehicle owner, the parties may agree that any penalty charges incurred will be debited by the vehicle owner to the credit card account of the hirer.

Pedestrian Crossings: Greater London

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many school crossing patrol officers were employed in each London borough in each year since 1988. [64177]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport does not hold figures for the numbers of school crossing patrol officers employed in each London borough in each year. The employment of school crossing patrol officers is a matter for local authorities.

Roads: Accidents

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving children there have been in each London borough in each year since 1988. [64178]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving children (aged 0 to 15 years) in each London borough in each year since 1988 is shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving children[1], Greater London: 1988-99

	Number of reported personal injury accidents											
London borough	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
City of London	6	16	9	8	11	7	3	7	4	8	12	4
Barking and Dagenham	189	176	201	160	162	131	149	145	153	162	158	138
Barnet	211	196	221	202	202	207	215	196	183	168	183	184
Bexley	151	137	161	138	137	134	112	135	148	120	120	134
Brent	233	227	220	227	211	192	180	178	172	191	175	171
Bromley	193	202	188	177	154	146	185	155	163	196	182	153
Camden	150	130	121	114	126	107	103	112	101	96	104	81
Croydon	229	237	233	239	238	243	284	245	227	221	228	258
Ealing	208	260	236	202	208	173	191	175	187	176	180	210
Enfield	195	195	184	188	207	205	214	192	199	193	181	212
Greenwich	224	253	256	213	223	164	203	219	174	174	181	188
Hackney	195	218	223	175	169	190	188	165	173	182	160	163
Hammersmith and Fulham	106	114	108	102	100	79	99	83	83	107	76	83
Haringey	161	179	164	162	157	157	139	159	136	156	153	120
Harrow	124	119	109	102	108	92	104	110	104	94	90	90
Havering	224	229	221	176	187	156	141	172	156	158	161	129
Hillingdon	182	223	197	194	188	204	170	200	152	173	152	142
Hounslow	195	197	211	174	159	174	166	146	160	175	160	134
Islington	127	158	153	143	136	113	98	101	104	105	108	120
Kensington and Chelsea	87	68	72	66	72	73	60	66	50	49	67	49
Kingston upon Thames	118	117	106	90	87	84	81	76	65	71	75	51
Lambeth	255	261	260	249	244	231	235	249	203	204	204	205
Lewisham	233	229	207	217	219	227	220	189	191	217	195	206
Merton	95	115	145	81	103	97	95	95	125	99	98	99

Table 1: Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving children[1], Greater London: 1988-99

	Number of reported personal injury accidents											
London borough	*1988*	*1989*	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Newham	227	264	334	242	230	260	229	214	228	233	208	225
Redbridge	147	174	162	161	152	144	162	170	162	134	148	171
Richmond upon Thames	87	102	91	90	68	84	94	82	76	67	74	58
Southwark	239	239	268	217	209	224	208	199	153	191	182	186
Sutton	112	139	137	136	124	107	114	106	98	97	106	91
Tower Hamlets	178	191	185	169	162	144	138	143	128	108	128	118
Waltham Forest	186	196	192	183	199	162	138	162	156	151	166	151
Wandsworth	193	188	172	174	153	146	171	150	163	135	137	138
Westminster	157	161	160	153	131	142	113	112	127	121	124	115
Heathrow airport	0	4	0	4	5	4	3	2	6	3	1	3
Greater London[2]	5,617	5,914	5,907	5,328	5,241	5,003	5,005	4,910	4,710	4,735	4,677	4,580

Table 2: Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving children[1], Greater London: 2000-10

	Number of reported personal injury accidents										
London borough	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
City of London	7	7	3	4	4	0	2	4	4	6	3
Barking and Dagenham	120	118	105	77	99	86	74	55	65	65	72
Barnet	163	156	134	121	124	89	75	93	77	78	93
Bexley	119	139	105	89	90	66	63	64	72	53	65
Brent	170	142	132	109	125	93	73	64	57	65	64
Bromley	114	128	144	98	90	85	67	78	69	57	62
Camden	95	83	77	61	70	50	36	36	26	39	42
Croydon	231	209	165	142	145	138	117	97	90	101	109
Ealing	158	139	127	134	113	96	79	73	63	78	68
Enfield	170	152	168	127	113	94	69	71	63	87	85
Greenwich	175	170	144	116	105	97	96	82	85	67	72
Hackney	166	154	121	104	81	80	62	62	79	46	61
Hammersmith and Fulham	77	92	62	51	64	51	33	40	31	44	31
Haringey	152	137	132	103	109	83	77	53	56	80	82
Harrow	92	83	54	61	56	53	56	44	39	43	43
Havering	117	124	96	114	71	79	80	60	64	71	64
Hillingdon	144	171	121	104	123	96	82	77	73	79	81
Hounslow	122	131	93	108	84	76	67	58	76	64	71
Islington	110	100	95	87	53	48	43	32	34	38	41
Kensington and Chelsea	60	45	45	47	30	31	28	25	28	38	24
Kingston upon Thames	61	54	54	39	33	36	38	33	37	39	32
Lambeth	182	154	132	136	104	102	66	71	76	81	87
Lewisham	194	170	147	150	145	104	92	68	76	75	80
Merton	81	85	74	60	64	41	51	44	35	32	30
Newham	186	176	165	138	129	99	87	89	87	92	85
Redbridge	127	133	108	99	94	78	78	49	74	67	84
Richmond upon Thames	52	55	44	47	36	33	23	41	28	20	41
Southwark	187	170	160	143	105	108	84	67	71	89	79
Sutton	87	91	62	68	67	53	50	50	45	34	33
Tower Hamlets	138	105	81	82	75	70	49	51	70	57	46
Waltham Forest	136	128	119	113	94	103	74	69	90	72	60
Wandsworth	106	120	99	76	68	59	55	62	49	57	58
Westminster	96	103	96	95	89	72	61	65	49	40	50
Heathrow airport	2	1	3	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	1
Greater London[2]	4,197	4,025	3,467	3,104	2,852	2,451	2,087	1,929	1,938	1,955	1,999

[1] Aged 0 to 15 years
[2] Includes figures for accidents on roads in Heathrow airport which are not counted by the London borough of Hillingdon.
Source:
Transport for London

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the report commissioned by his Department into potential sources of risk to strategic transport networks from activities below roads and railways and on adjacent sites. [63296]

Mike Penning: The recommendations within the reports compiled by both the Highways Agency and Network Rail are currently being considered by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond).

TREASURY

Board for Actuarial Standards

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applicants there were for appointment to the Board for Actuarial Standards; and which such applicants were interviewed; [53048]

(2) what criteria were used in making the appointment of Sir Derek Wanless to the Board for Actuarial Standards. [53049]

(3) where the opportunities for appointment to the Board for Actuarial Standards were advertised. [53050]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Reporting Council is a private body. Appointments to the operating bodies of the FRC (of which the Board for Actuarial Standards is one) are a matter for the FRC.

Banks: Regulation

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether under the Project Merlin agreement chief executive remuneration will reflect banks' performance against *(a)* stretch and *(b)* capacity lending targets. [60668]

Mr Hoban: The Merlin statement commits the banks to give the expectations, capacity and willingness relating to lending to small and medium sized businesses more weight in the performance metrics of the chief executives of each bank for 2011, as well as the leaders responsible for the relevant business areas, than the SME lending share of each bank's profits might otherwise imply.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to monitor the progress of the Project Merlin agreement with banks. [64450]

Mr Hoban: The Government are closely monitoring the banks' progress in meeting the commitments made under Project Merlin, and will provide further information at the appropriate time.

Bilderberg Group

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation in connection with his attendance at the Bilderberg conference 2011. [62437]

Justine Greening: The Department has committed to publish details of all Ministers' meetings, hospitality and overseas travel, including that of the Chancellor. This data is published on the HM Treasury website and can be found in the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Cheques

Mr Buckland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with major banks about the possibility of retaining cheque books beyond 2018. [59545]

Mr Hoban: The Payments Council have made a commitment not to close the cheque clearing system unless alternatives are put in place, including a paper based system.

The Government are clear that any alternative system will need to replicate the flexibility and ease of use of cheques, while improving processing times, and be cost effective. An alternative will need to have been tested in practice, and be widely available, widely acceptable and widely adopted by users who do not currently have a suitable alternative. Until this is demonstrated, there is not a credible and coherent case for abolishing cheques. The Government are keenly monitoring the progress of the cheque replacement programme and are considering whether they may need to intervene to protect vulnerable individuals and businesses if there is any threat that cheques may be withdrawn without suitable alternatives being put in place.

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the decision of the Payments Council to phase out of the use of cheques. [60058]

Mr Hoban: The Payments Council have made a commitment not to close the cheque clearing system unless alternatives are put in place, including a paper based system.

The Government are clear that any alternative system will need to replicate the flexibility and ease of use of cheques, while improving processing times, and be cost effective. An alternative will need to have been tested in practice, and be widely available, widely acceptable and widely adopted by users who do not currently have a suitable alternative. Until this is demonstrated, there is not a credible and coherent case for abolishing cheques. The Government are keenly monitoring the progress of the cheque replacement programme and are considering whether they may need to intervene to protect vulnerable individuals and businesses if there is any threat that cheques may be withdrawn without suitable alternatives being put in place.

Commodity Markets

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the findings of the report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development on the effects of financial investors on commodity prices. [63836]

Mr Hoban: The report entitled "Price Formation in Financialized Commodity Markets" is UNCTAD's latest contribution to the debate on the impact of financial

investors on commodity prices. It has a particular focus on the importance of market information and the scope that might exist for herding in commodity derivative markets. The Government strongly support the G20 commitment to improve the regulation, functioning, and transparency of financial and commodity markets.

The report concludes by floating a number of ideas as options for a possible regulatory response by the international community. They are an interesting contribution to the debate. But given the scope that exists for rules in this area to have counter-productive impacts, a clear understanding of the associated costs and benefits of all proposals is important. The Government would need to see a more detailed assessment of the specific proposals before we would comment on them.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63570]

Justine Greening: The Department's aim is to pay all valid goods and services invoices within five working days and this applies to all suppliers of goods and services.

Details of the Treasury Group's performance against this five working day aim since May 2010 can be found on the department's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/group_payment_performance.htm

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62986]

Justine Greening: Information on the cost and number of ministerial cars has been published in annual written ministerial statements since 2005, available in the Libraries of both Houses. Details of the costs for 2010-11 are in the process of being compiled and are due for release in July 2011. Information prior to 2005 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what statistical data his Department has ceased to collect in the last year; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63671]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has not ceased to collect any statistical data in the last year.

European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of the sums committed to EU financial stabilisation mechanisms which will revert to the Exchequer. [57339]

Mr Hoban: The European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) is financed by the European Commission raising funds on capital markets, guaranteed by the EU Budget. There is no direct impact on the EU Budget and therefore on the Exchequer from any such borrowing by the Commission. Only in the event that a beneficiary member state defaults on loan repayments would the EU Budget be adversely affected.

Any repayments or other revenue arising from the EFSM would be returned to the EU Budget, where it would contribute to any budgetary surplus and thereby help to lower member states' future contributions. This revenue would not be returned directly to member states.

The December European Council agreed that a permanent mechanism to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area as a whole (European Stability Mechanism—ESM) will be established by 'the member states of the euro area' from 2013. The Government have ensured that the UK will not be part of the permanent European Stability Mechanism. In addition, once the ESM comes into existence, it will replace both the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM) and the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF). Therefore the EFSM will cease to exist in July 2013, at the latest.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to introduce a scheme for the repayment of excise duty on fuel for disabled drivers. [63914]

Justine Greening: We are committed to supporting disabled people to ensure that they can live full and active lives. The mobility component of disability living allowance is currently available to help disabled people who face extra costs when getting around. In 2013 we will replace disability living allowance with personal independence payment, which will include a mobility component. The new benefit will be focused on individuals whose health condition or impairment has the most impact on their lives.

Financial Services

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the financial services industry on steps to ensure transparency in the description of financial products for consumers; and if he will make a statement; [64583]

(2) what steps he is taking to facilitate UK bank account holders switching personal current accounts between banks; and if he will make a statement. [64518]

Mr Hoban: The Government have an ongoing dialogue with the banking and financial services community.

The Government established an Independent Commission on Banking to examine a range of issues, including competition in the retail banking and personal current account markets. The Government welcome the progress that the Commission has made and look forward to receiving its final report in September 2011.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contribution of the voluntary sector to providing advice to the public on savings and loans. [30440]

Mr Hoban: The Money Advice Service was established in April 2010 to promote understanding of the financial system and raise levels of financial capability across the UK. MAS is operationally independent and funded by a levy on the financial services industry. MAS regularly engages with the voluntary sector.

International Monetary Fund

Oliver Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to require the International Monetary Fund to apply as a condition for a loan that any applicant country with identifiable poor performance in its administration of asylum claims demonstrates improvement in such administration. [64033]

Mr Hoban: When a member country requests assistance from the IMF, IMF staff discuss with the country the economic policies that may be expected to address the problems most effectively. The IMF then aims to ensure that conditions linked to IMF loan disbursements are focused and adequately tailored to the varying strengths of members' policies and fundamentals.

The UK supports this approach, and considers that the conditions attached to any IMF programme should be focused on restoring macro-economic stability to the country in difficulty. For this reason, we do not believe in a "one size fits all" approach to IMF conditionality.

Further details of IMF lending and conditionality policy can be found at:

http://www.imf.org/external/about/lending.htm

Loans: Republic of Ireland

Mark Reckless: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the bilateral Irish loan still ranks above private sector debt, including private holdings of Irish gilts, in line with that of Eurozone credit extended under the European Financial Stability Facility, following the Eurozone agreement of 20 June 2011. [63630]

Mr Hoban: Article 13.3 of the bilateral loan agreement with Ireland states that

'the Borrower [Ireland] must ensure that its payment obligations under this Agreement at all times rank at least pari passu with all its other present and future unsecured indebtedness.'

In his statement to the press following the Eurogroup meeting of 20 June, Eurogroup President Jean-Claude Juncker said that the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) will not claim preferred creditor status as regards loans to countries that already have a support programme. The treaty establishing the ESM will be signed and presented to euro area Parliaments for ratification in the coming weeks.

Minimum Wage

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many jobs HM Revenue and Customs identified as being paid below the rate of national minimum wage in each region in each year since its inception. [63665]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the number of people in low paid jobs, and specifically those paid less than the national minimum wage, are published by the Office for National Statistics annually in October.

The ONS publishes tables on the National Statistics website showing the number of UK jobs from 1998 onwards paid below the minimum wage for those aged 18-21 and those aged 22 and over, by age, gender, full-time or part-time work, by industry sector, by Government Office Region and by occupation. From 2005, estimates of the number of 16-17 year olds paid below the national minimum wage have also been published.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the sum identified as national minimum wage underpayments to employees in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 has now been paid. [63756]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has identified minimum wage arrears of almost £9 million between April 2009 and the end of June 2011. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

HMRC will pursue any known non-payment of arrears through civil recovery action.

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects of labour market conditions on the workload of national minimum wage compliance officers. [63757]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the House on 11 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 471W.

National Insurance Contributions: New Businesses

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic effects on the South East of the exclusion of that region from the regional employer national insurance contributions holiday. [63841]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic effects of the National Insurance Contributions (NICs) Holiday on the South East.

The policy is designed to support new businesses in parts of the country that are most reliant on the public sector. The Government have considered the case for extending the NICs Holiday to all regions but believes the best use of public funds at this time is to keep the NICs Holiday as a targeted scheme for those areas in most need of employment support.

Pensions: Taxation

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to question 57259, on pension tax relief, tabled on 19 May 2011 for answer on 23 May. [62977]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* I have now replied to the hon. Member.

Personal Savings

Steve Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support existing savers; and what steps he is taking to encourage people to save. [61574]

Mr Hoban: The Government's savings strategy is based on the principles of freedom, fairness and responsibility and aims to work with the grain of saving habits. In particular, the Government aim to encourage more lower and middle income households to start to save and save more, especially for the long-term and retirement.

The Government have taken steps to support existing savers and encourage new savers, including:

1. Promoting choice, by providing flexibility to consumers in a competitive market including introducing a Junior ISA, removing the effective requirement to annuitise at age 75 and ensuring transfer on cash ISAs is no more than 15 working days.

2. Promoting fairness by ensuring that saving is appropriately incentivised and rewarded, including introducing automatic enrolment of employees into a pension scheme from next year, reforming the way pensions tax relief is restricted and indexing ISA contribution limits.

3. Promoting personal responsibility within the saving, debt and protection system; so individuals are equipped to exercise effective choice and plan for expected and unexpected events, industry introducing a free and impartial national financial advice service, which includes a Financial Healthcheck delivered by the Money Advice Service, the development of simple financial products, and ensuring reforms to the state pension system provide clear incentives for people to save for their retirement.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of pensions tax relief in each year since 1990 *(a)* in total, *(b)* in respect of standard rate taxpayers, *(c)* in respect of higher rate taxpayers and *(d)* by income decile; and what change in cost would have been achieved by limiting tax relief to standard rate taxpayers. [57259]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The estimated total cost of the various tax reliefs relating to pensions are published by HM Revenue and Customs on their website and can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/table7-9.pdf

The published table shows each year since 1999-2000. Figures for 1998-99 are also available and are as follows:

Registered pension schemes: Cost of tax relief 1998-99

	£ million
Relief for	
Occupational scheme contributions:	
By employees	2,500
By employers	5,500
Personal pension scheme contributions:	
By employees	1,000
By employers	440
PP and RAC contributions by self-employed	1,100
National insurance rebates to PPs[1]	180
Investment income of funds[2]	4,300
Lump sum payments from unfunded schemes[3]	350
Less tax liable on	
Pension payments[4]	6,100
Refunds by funds to employers in connection with pension fund surpluses	29
Total (rounded to nearest £100 million)	8,300
Memorandum item	
National insurance relief on employer contributions[5]	2,800

PP = personal pension
RAC = retirement annuity contract

[1] Basic rate of tax relief paid to scheme administrators in respect of the employees' part of the national insurance rebate.

[2] The cost of relief on investment income is for both occupational and personal pension schemes funds; it is not possible to provide reliable estimates distinctly. The estimate assumes relief at the basic rate of tax. Estimates of relief for capital gains realised by pension funds are not included because of estimation difficulties.

[3] Assuming that lump sum payments in unfunded schemes represent the same proportion of total benefit as that observed for funded schemes, and assuming relief at the basic rate of tax. On the same assumption the cost of all lump sums would be around £2.5 billion for 2008-09.

[4] Assuming that pension payments represent the top slice of taxable income.

[5] On the basis that under present arrangements, employer contributions are not subject to a national insurance charge.

The breakdowns of the relief requested in *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* for each year are not readily available. However, the following estimates have been made for the tax year 2009-10:

(b) The relief in respect of standard rate taxpayers is estimated to be one third of the total.

(c) The relief in respect of higher rate taxpayers is estimated to be two thirds of the total.

(d) The following table shows the approximate percentage of total tax relief by income decile of all tax payers:

For all taxpayers

2009-10 tax year

Income decile		*Percentage of total relief*
Bottom decile	1	1
	2	1
	3	1
	4	2
	5	3
	6	4
	7	6
	8	8
	9	17
Top decile	10	58

If relief on pension contributions were limited to the basic rate of tax, the amount of this relief would fall by approximately one third. This estimate does not take account of behavioural effects, which are likely to be large.

The reductions in the annual allowance and lifetime allowance from 2011-12 will reduce the cost of relief by around £4 billion per annum, almost all of which will relate to the top income decile.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of trends in the level of advertising aimed at children in the last 30 years; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such advertising on children. [63604]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no such assessments himself, but the effects of certain advertising on children is considered by the Committee of Advertising Practice and its broadcasting equivalent in establishing their codes and by Ofcom and was also recently examined by Reg Bailey in his review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.

Broadband: Hertfordshire

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his broadband objectives include completing the full roll-out of superfast broadband in North East Hertfordshire constituency. [63339]

Mr Vaizey: The Government aim to ensure that 90% of UK premises have access to superfast broadband and the remainder have access to at least 2Mbps broadband by 2015, including in Hertfordshire and have made available £530 million to assist the delivery of these objectives.

Cultural Heritage: Kent

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to preserve heritage sites in Kent. [63283]

John Penrose: English Heritage has recently launched the National Heritage Protection Plan, which sets out why, what and how England's vulnerable historic environment is to be safeguarded in the next four years. Developed in consultation with a wide range of partners, it shows where the threats are the greatest and will help English Heritage to prioritise its work. It will also help other heritage professionals and volunteers to contribute to the business of managing England's heritage. This Department and English Heritage are also considering various measures to tackle the problem of buildings which have been on the Heritage At Risk Register for an extended period of time.

English Heritage offered over £400,000 to projects in Kent in 2009-10 under its two main grant programmes. English Heritage grant-aid has helped preserve important heritage sites at Shurland Hall, Sheppey, the No 1 Smithery at Chatham Historic Dockyard and at Westenhanger Castle in Folkestone. Survey work on the Hoo Peninsula undertaken by English Heritage is extending understanding and protection to a little-studied landscape under considerable pressure for change. In Margate, Dover, Gravesend and the Medway towns, a number of heritage assets have been assessed for statutory designation in a series of Defined Area Surveys (some of which are ongoing), resulting in a number of newly listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are is available. [63566]

John Penrose: The Department's payment systems do not currently distinguish between payments to large and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Both are given equal priority.

During the period June 2010 to May 2011, the Department's overall performance against the Government's target of paying 80% of valid invoices within five working days was 74.1%.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63584]

John Penrose: The Department does not record details of FOI requests in this way. All requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 are treated the same, irrespective of the professional or political position of the applicant.

Since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force in January 2005 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have published statistics, including the number of FOI cases received by this Department, on their website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

Digital Broadcasting

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps his Department is taking in respect of technical standards and frequency allocations to minimise the likelihood of future switchovers; [63312]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to the use of coverage characteristics of Band I for digital broadcasting. [63313]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom are responsible for managing the radio spectrum to ensure its most optimal use in delivering benefits to UK consumers and citizens. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), meets regularly with Ofcom to discuss specific or general spectrum management issues and this includes possible future uses of particular bands. The Secretary of State has had no such discussion on the possible use of Band I for digital broadcasting.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to respond to the report from the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression on the Digital Economy Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [63405]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have responded to the Human Rights Council, welcoming the Special Rapporteur's report and supporting the general thrust of his conclusions and recommendations. The Government share the view that access to the internet is extremely important. However, it is also important to seek to safeguard intellectual property, and Government must set the balance in a fair and proportionate way. The Government's response was published on 3 June 2011 on the website for the UK Mission to the UN:

http://ukungeneva.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/our-work/human-rights

Internet: Copyright

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* internet service providers and *(b)* copyright holders on proposals to introduce website blocking; and if he will make a statement. [63821]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are regularly in discussion with all relevant parts of industry about ways to reduce online copyright infringement. As a part of that wider dialogue, Government have hosted two discussions between copyright owners, internet service providers, search engines and consumer representation on issues around blocking access to websites that are focused primarily on infringing copyright. These took place on 4 April and 15 June 2011, at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Museums and Galleries

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to increase the autonomy of museums. [64168]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: My officials are in ongoing discussions with the museums and other Government Departments to determine how national museums can be given greater administrative freedoms.

Olympic and Paralympic Transport Plan

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what role his Department is playing in preparation of the final Olympic and Paralympic Transport Plan. [63534]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Department for Transport (DFT) is the Government Department leading on transport for the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012. Both DFT and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have worked closely with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) on the delivery of the Olympic Transport Plans that have been published to date.

Following publication of the First Edition of the Olympic Transport Plan in October 2007, and the consultation version of the Second Edition in December 2009, the final version of the Second Edition of the ODA's Transport Plan for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games was published on 1 June 2011. At this time, there is no intention to issue a third edition unless there is a material change.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of applications for tickets to the London 2012 Olympics which were received in the first application round; and how many of those applicants received tickets for *(a)* 20 events or more, *(b)* 10 to 19 events, *(c)* five to nine events, *(d)* two to four events, *(e)* one event and *(f)* no events. [63672]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt), has made no such estimate. The London 2012 Organising Committee is responsible for the ticketing arrangements for the Olympic Games. They have confirmed 1.9 million applications were received in the first round. 700,000 applicants were successful, being allocated 3 million tickets. Each successful applicant, on average, secured between four and five tickets which totalled around £275. Those that were not successful were given priority in the second round of sales.

Public Appointments

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of public appointees to his Department's public bodies made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Prime Minister, *(c)* the Crown and *(d)* the boards of those bodies since May 2010 had a known political affiliation; and what those affiliations were in each such case. [64119]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Information on my Department's individual public appointments, including any political activity declared by those persons appointed, is published on our website, in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/public_appointments/1006.aspx

Radio Spectrum

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of allocating more than 16 MHz of Band III to local DAB radio on local FM stations that occupy 9 MHz of Band II. [63540]

Mr Vaizey: No specific assessment has been made of the impact of allocating Band III spectrum for local DAB on FM stations which occupy Band II. However, we note that the vast majority of FM stations are simulcast on local DAB, providing these stations with the potential for greater coverage and improved reception and functionality for listeners. In 2010 the Government launched the Digital Radio Action Plan to consider the case for a radio switchover which would, if implemented, allow for the re-allocation of much of the Band II spectrum currently used for radio for other purposes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Beaches: Sunderland

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that beaches in the Sunderland area are *(a)* clean and *(b)* safe for bathing. [63707]

Richard Benyon: Sunderland city council is responsible for the day to day cleanliness of its beaches. The Environment Agency (EA) and Sunderland city council have completed surveys of the beaches that found very little evidence of any significant pollution. Occasionally small amounts of sewage-related debris are found from storm sewage overflows. This is a minor problem and appropriate clean-ups are carried out.

The EA monitors the quality of bathing water throughout the bathing season from May to September. Since 1995, Sunderland's designated bathing waters have always met the 'mandatory' bathing water quality standard under the Bathing Waters Directive. In eight of the last ten years they have also met the higher 'excellent' standard. These are very good results for bathing waters so close to a large urban area, and demonstrate that the sewerage systems put in place to protect the water quality are performing well.

The EA has compared the bathing water results to the tighter standards in the revised Bathing Water Directive, which comes into force in 2015. This predicts that designated bathing waters in the area will meet the 'good' or 'excellent' standards, which is over and above the 'sufficient' standard required. The EA will continue to monitor to ensure that this remains the case.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to her Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by her Department in each such year; what the average cost to her Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps her Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since her appointment. [63002]

Richard Benyon: The costs of ministerial cars for DEFRA is as follows:

Financial year	*Number of ministerial cars*	*Cost of ministerial cars (£)*
2005-06	5	319,700
2006-07	5	324,500
2007-08	4	267,800
2008-09	4	262,400
2009-10	2	275,989

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are being compiled and are due for release in July 2011. Information prior to 2005 is not available and would be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since the introduction of the 'on-demand' Ministerial Car Service on 6 September 2010 DEFRA Ministers have made 30 car journeys through this service up until 31 March 2011. Since my appointment we have reduced number of permanent cars used for ministerial travel to one.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by her Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate she has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60495]

Mr Paice: The Department repealed the following 18 statutory instruments between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011:

1. The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991/2839), in so far as they apply to England and Wales.

2. The Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/1056), in so far as they apply to England and Wales.

3. The Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/605), in so far as they apply to England and Wales.

4. The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/63).

5. The Environmental Protection Act (Amendment of Section 57) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/3026).

6. The Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/2347), so far as they apply in England.

7. The Avian Influenza (H5N1) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2007 (SI 2007/3303).

8. The Animal By-Products (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1119).

9. The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Measures) (Penalty Notices) Order 2008 (SI 2008/984), except in so far as it applies in Wales or to the Welsh Zone.

10. The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/2610).

11. The Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1067).

12. The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2258).

13. The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (England) (No. 2) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2173).

14. The Environment Agency (Levies) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/61).

15. The Local Fisheries Committees (Fees for Copy Byelaws) Order 1993 (SI 1993/1116).

16. The North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries District (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2010 (SI 2010/631).

17. The Seed Marketing Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2605).

18. The Poultry Meat (Water Content) Regulations 1984 (1984/1145).

Information on the equivalent annual net saving to business of DEFRA's domestic regulations repealed between 1 January and 30 June 2011 was published in the Government's 'One-in, One-out: Statement of New Regulation' published in April 2011 and which is available to view at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/better-regulation/docs/o/11-p96a-one-in-one-out-new-regulation.pdf

The overall effect was an equivalent annual net saving to business of £28,000 arising from DEFRA's regulations.

Food: Reserves

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution her Department plans to make to the G20 Development Working Group on the deployment of emergency food stocks. [63829]

Mr O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is generally supportive of G20 plans to develop strategic regional humanitarian food reserves under the leadership of the World Food Programme (WFP) as outlined in the G20 Agriculture Ministers Action Plan launched on the 23 June 2011.

I am clear, however, that the proposal for a pilot study must include a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis and must provide evidence that this kind of approach is more cost effective than other approaches to addressing acute food insecurity. Department for International Development officials will participate in the design of the pilot and will be represented on the high level stakeholder workshop in September at which WFP's draft proposal will be discussed.

Reservoirs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition she uses of a community for the purposes of guidance issued under the Reservoir Act 1975. [63444]

Richard Benyon: Current non-statutory guidance used by Reservoirs Act panel engineers states that, for the purposes of the guidance, a "community" is considered to be not less than about 10 persons who could be affected by a disastrous breach as a result of the under-provision of spillway capacity.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition is used to define *(a)* a bund or *(b)* a reservoir for flood defence purposes; and if she will make a statement. [63445]

Richard Benyon: Neither of these terms has a legal definition, but for practical purposes the following definitions are commonly used:

(a) a flood defence bund is an embankment designed to prevent flood water flowing from a watercourse and flooding adjacent land;

(b) a flood storage reservoir is a structure or area designed to store water from a watercourse for a period of time to reduce the risk of flooding downstream. This water is later released when the risk of flooding has receded.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what legislation prevents the use of a railway embankment for containment of water; and if she will make a statement. [63446]

Richard Benyon: The legislation that could prevent the use of a railway embankment for containment of water is Schedule 22 of the Water Resources Act 1991. This states that works which directly or indirectly interfere with works or property vested in or under the control of a railway company (or the use of such works or property) so as to affect injuriously those works or that property cannot be carried out without consent. Consent may be given by the railway company subject to reasonable conditions, but cannot unreasonably be withheld.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the associated guidance; and if she will make a statement. [63455]

Richard Benyon: Proposals to amend the Reservoirs Act 1975 and the associated guidance will be brought forward as part of the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Tyre Bales

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable her Department has set for research and investigation to develop a quality protocol for tyre bales to meet the end-of-waste criteria and cease to be waste. [63348]

Richard Benyon: Quality protocols identify the point at which waste has been fully recovered and may be regarded as a non-waste product or material, and supplied into markets without the need for waste management controls. Developing quality protocols to unlock such markets is a joint effort between the sector concerned, the Environment Agency and the Waste and Resources Action Programme. This involves some industry funding, which is a commercial decision for the sector involved.

There is no set timetable for the development of a quality protocol for tyre bales. Work on assessing the feasibility of such a protocol has started, but further research needs to be undertaken, with industry funding.

Water

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will instruct Thames Water to ensure there is independent monitoring of any future feasibility studies that may be required in the preparation of a revised draft Water Resources Management Plan. [63830]

Richard Benyon: Under the water resources management planning process, it is for Thames Water to undertake the work necessary to inform its revised draft plan. When determining the robustness of the work, and whether to agree that the revised draft plan should be published, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman), will consider how Thames

Water has taken into account the comments and concerns raised by third parties. The Secretary of State will also be seeking the advice of the Environment Agency.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Fuel Smuggling

12. **Mr Gregory Campbell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on revenue losses attributable to fuel smuggling and other illegal activities in border regions of Northern Ireland. [63179]

Mr Swire: My officials liaise closely with HM Revenue and Customs, which is the lead department on fuel smuggling and related activity in Northern Ireland. As the 2011 Organised Crime Task Force's Threat Assessment makes clear, smuggling remains a significant terrorist revenue source and we support HMRC in their efforts to crack down on it.

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees with disabilities in his Department are receiving support from the Access to Work programme; and what proportion of the work force of his Department this figure represents. [64393]

Mr Paterson: No member of staff in my Department is currently receiving support from the Access to Work programme.

By-elections: West Belfast

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost to the public purse was of the June 2011 by-election for the West Belfast constituency. [63543]

Mr Swire: A total figure for the cost of holding the by-election is not yet available. However, the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officer's Charges) (Northern Ireland) Order 2010 specifies that the maximum amount that may be recovered by the returning officer in respect of this election is £130,000.

Constituencies

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the work of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland in revising constituency boundaries. [63628]

Mr Swire: The proposed distribution of constituencies will be set out by the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland in a review which they hope to publish by the end of the year. It would be inappropriate to comment until then.

Corporation Tax

Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the First Ministers of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales on the rate of corporation tax. [63181]

Mr Paterson: I have had regular discussions with the First and Deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland on our shared goal of rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. This includes discussion on the potential benefits of a reduced rate of corporation tax for Northern Ireland. I have also had brief informal discussions with the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales at the British-Irish Council.

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64422]

Mr Paterson: None.

Inward Investment

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on inward investment into Northern Ireland. [63180]

Mr Paterson: The lead responsibility for attracting inward investment to Northern Ireland lies with the Executive, but we co-operate closely in support of their efforts.

I have had regular discussions on inward investment with representatives of the United States Administration, including Secretary Clinton when I met her in Washington.

Parades Commission

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what *(a)* conferences and *(b)* meetings held outside Northern Ireland and paid for out of public funds have been attended by each member of the Parades Commission since their appointment; [64023]

(2) what training courses have been attended by each member of the Parades Commission since their appointment; and what the cost of attendance was at each such course; [64024]

(3) what *(a)* remuneration, *(b)* travel expenses, *(c)* expenses and *(d)* other payments have been made to each member of the Parades Commission since their appointment. [64026]

Mr Paterson: These are matters for the Parades Commission, which operates independently of Government.

The right hon. Gentleman may wish to write to the Commission directly on these matters.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the work of the Parades Commission since the appointment of the new Commission. [64025]

Mr Paterson: I have met with the Parades Commission on a number of occasions since its appointment. I am pleased to see that the new Commission is not shying away from looking at the difficult issues which exist within parading. I would like to commend the members

of the Commission for the review of the Commission's processes that they have instigated and look forward to seeing its outworking in the autumn.

Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with the Parades Commission since the new Commission was appointed. [64027]

Mr Paterson: I have met with the Parades Commission on three occasions since the current Commission was appointed on 1 January 2011.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anguilla: Seas and Oceans

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of Anguilla's marine environment. [63464]

Mr Bellingham: Responsibility for environmental issues is devolved to the Governments of the Overseas Territories. Anguilla's Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources published in 2010 a document entitled "Status of Anguilla's Marine Resources" which contains an assessment of Anguilla's marine environment.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress his Department has made on its Overseas Territories White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [63466]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) to the House on 10 March 2011, *Official Report,* columns 76-77WS, in which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said the Government planned to bring all aspects of the Government's policies on the Overseas Territories together in a new White Paper in the course of the year ahead. This remains the position.

Commonwealth Scholarships

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to Lord Lee of 30 November 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA429, on Commonwealth scholarships, who attended the first meeting of the working group on all government scholarships; what the outcome of the meeting was; and what further meetings are scheduled. [64140]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in regular contact with other Government Departments which fund scholarships, including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for International Development, for the purposes of sharing information and best practice across different scholarship programmes. We are also in regular contact with other partners involved in scholarships for similar purposes, including the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission, and the British Council. We welcomed the contributions all these bodies made to our recent Chevening review and are collectively considering with them whether there would be merit in establishing a more formal cross-Government working group to provide a forum for our exchanges.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63577]

Mr Bellingham: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies. The information provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) today may include data on routine information requests that are not included in the Ministry of Justice's published statistics on Freedom of Information implementation in central Government, so there may be slight variations between the Ministry of Justice's figures on overall requests, and those of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or member of the public. However, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has checked its records and is able to provide figures for requests where the requestor has been readily identifiable as a Member of Parliament, or from the office of an MP or which have been sent by an MP on behalf of a constituent. Divided on party lines and beginning when the Act came into operation in January 2005, they are as are as follows:

From MPs:

2005

Labour: 6
Liberal Democrat: 2
Conservative: 1

2006

Labour: 2
Liberal Democrat: 4
Conservative: 11

2007

Labour: 2
Liberal Democrat: 12
Conservative: 9
Plaid Cymru: 1

2008

Labour: 4
Liberal Democrat: 3
Conservative: 12

2009

DUP: 1

Labour: 3
Liberal Democrat: 5
Conservative: 9

2010

Labour: 25
Conservative: 10
Liberal Democrat: 1

2011 (until 31 March)

Labour: 1
Liberal Democrat: 0
Conservative: 1

Total number of requests received:

2005: 1,315
2006: 1,030
2007: 1,027
2008: 1,024
2009: 1,135
2010: 1,185
2011 (until 31 March): 362.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between 2000-01 and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62987]

Mr Bellingham: Written ministerial statements disclosing the cost of ministerial official cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) have been made each year from July 2007 and provide information for financial years from 2005-06. The Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond), made the most recent statement on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 23WS, relating to the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. Costs for GCDA in 2010-11 incurred by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will be published in due course.

Since October 2010 FCO Ministers have used vehicles provided by FCO Services wherever possible. The total amount paid to FCO Services between 1 October 2010 and 31 March 2011 for this service which relates specifically to ministerial usage is £49,251.

Additional information on car travel is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost. Section 10 of the Ministerial Code provides guidance on travel for Ministers and makes clear that Ministers must ensure that they always make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the treatment of Christians in Iraq. [63478]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received and continues to receive regular representations from parliamentarians and members of the public about the situation of Christians in Iraq. The number of representations rose sharply after the tragic attacks against Christian groups in Iraq in late 2010. We continue to take this issue extremely seriously. Most recently our ambassador to Iraq met Baghdad-based Canon Andrew White to discuss the current situation.

The Government are greatly concerned about those who are denied the right to freedom of religion or belief. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, wherever they occur or whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. We, together with international partners, regularly make clear to Governments across the region the importance we place on promoting cultural and religious tolerance and on eliminating all legal provisions and policies which discriminate against different religious communities.

Libya: Politics and Government

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department is taking steps to support the National Transitional Council in Benghazi in respect of *(a)* provision of currency and *(b)* other matters. [62805]

Alistair Burt: The UK led the process of designing and setting up the Temporary Financial Mechanism (TFM) to provide financial support on a transitional basis through the Contact Group. The TFM is now operational and funds are flowing through it.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is also providing the National Transitional Council with a range of other support, including equipment to help improve their capability to protect civilians.

Mongolia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans to visit Mongolia. [63469]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) has not yet finalised his travel plans for the next year.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne) visited Ulaanbaatar from 29-31 May. He held productive discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Education Minister, the State Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade and a range of British and Mongolian business leaders.

Mongolia: Foreign Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of the UK's relations with Mongolia. [63468]

Alistair Burt: The UK enjoys good relations with Mongolia. Our officials speak regularly on a range of issues and the armed forces of both our countries

operate in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan. The UK has significant commercial interests in Mongolia, which we hope to expand in the coming years.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the ability of each religious community in Pakistan to *(a)* exercise its faith, *(b)* observe its (i) holidays and (ii) weekly day of rest and *(c)* administer its internal affairs; and if he will make a statement. [63111]

Alistair Burt: There are many civil society groups who report on the rights of religious minority groups. We engage regularly with them on these issues, and their reports are assessed along with other information to influence how we address our efforts in this area. Reports continue to suggest that minority groups in some areas in Pakistan experience discrimination in the practice of their religion.

We are concerned about the human rights situation in Pakistan, including treatment of minority religious groups. We call on the Government of Pakistan to uphold the fundamental rights of all Pakistanis, regardless of their faith or ethnicity. We engage regularly with both the Ministry for Inter-faith Harmony and Minority Affairs, and with the Ministry of Human Rights.

During my visit to Pakistan in May 2011,1 met with members of the Government sponsored Interfaith Council in Pakistan. I also recently met with Paul Bhatti, Pakistan's Special Advisor for Religious Minorities, at a seminar at Wilton Park on religious freedom. Engagement at both the bilateral and the multilateral (EU) level helps to ensure that the Government of Pakistan are aware of the importance with which we hold these issues.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposed Moroccan autonomy plan; and whether it provides for self-determination for Western Sahara. [63657]

Alistair Burt: The UK supports the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, Christopher Ross, in their efforts to resolve the dispute in Western Sahara and to find a negotiated political settlement, providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. As set out in Security Council Resolution 1871, we regard the Moroccan Autonomy Plan as a serious and credible contribution to those efforts.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Anguilla: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assistance his Department has provided to promote environmental awareness in Anguilla. [63465]

Mr Duncan: Anguilla has benefited from several DFID-funded initiatives over the past few years: The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) is jointly funded and managed by DFID and the FCO and totals £2 million over four years; the Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change (ECACC) project in the Caribbean, which works with a number of Caribbean governments, including Anguilla, to help them adapt to climate change; an initiative to help Overseas Territories engage in international climate change negotiations. This allowed Anguilla to have a stronger engagement in the development of a UK Government position in the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change Conference of Parties at Mexico in December 2010.

Each of these projects has promoted environmental awareness in Anguilla. They have helped to build understanding amongst Anguilla's population of the value of a sound environment to underpin economic growth.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63560]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold payment performance information specifically relating to small and medium-sized businesses.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63580]

Mr Duncan: The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the total number of Freedom of Information requests received by central Government Departments on its website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/foi/implementation.htm

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 requires public authorities to treat each FOI request entirely on its own merits and in a manner that is both purpose and applicant blind. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not, therefore, analyse information by type of applicant.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to *(a)* the United Nations Population Fund, *(b)* Marie Stopes International and *(c)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation in the comprehensive spending review period; whether his Department places restrictions on the use of such funds; and if he will make a statement. [63674]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) will provide up to £80 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in core funding over the 2011-14 period. Core funding for the first two years is set at £20 million per annum. Funding for the following two years will be contingent on an assessment of UNFPA's progress in implementing priority reforms. There are no other conditionalities on the use of the core funding.

DFID will provide £8.6 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) over the 2011-13 period. This funding can be used flexibly by IPPF as long as they are able to meet the objectives and measurable performance indicators that have been agreed by DFID.

We are in the late stages of negotiating a Programme Partnership Arrangement (PPA) with Marie Stopes International. This should be finalised in late July or early August.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking in preparation for the special UN meeting on health workers in September 2011. [63682]

Mr Duncan: The Secretary of State has received an invitation to participate in an event on health workers organised by Save the Children and others on 20 September in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The Department for International Development (DFID) fully recognises the central importance of health workers in accelerating progress towards our health goals. Better access to health services in all countries depends on there being skilled and motivated health workers, in the right place at the right time. Preparations are under way across Her Majesty's Government (HMG), including within DFID, on policy priorities and objectives, as well as plans for ministerial attendance, over the week of UNGA in September.

Developing Countries: Primary Education

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support international efforts to increase the number of girls in primary education in developing countries; and if he will assess the merits of making this issue one of his Department's performance indicators. [63827]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government are placing girls and women at the centre of our aid programme. All Department for International Development (DFID) education programmes will have a focus on girls and young women. We are working with existing and new development partners to combine general support to education systems with targeted interventions to address girls' drop out rates and support their transition to lower secondary schooling. Following a comprehensive review of all UK aid programmes the Government plan to support at least 9 million children in primary school, over half of whom will be girls, and 2 million children in secondary school by 2014.

DFID will track completion of a full cycle of primary education (for girls and for boys) as a key indicator in each of our partner countries where we have education programmes.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Complaints

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the rationale is for the four digit reference numbering system used to record complaints registered with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer. [62583]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, dated June 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the rationale is for the four digit reference numbering system used to record complaints registered with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer.

The four digit numbering system is a method of allocating a unique reference number to identify individual cases.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the reasons were for the time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer to investigate complaint 3058, lodged on 21 December 2010. [62584]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, dated June 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the reasons were for the time taken by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer to investigate complaint 3058 lodged on 21 December 2010.

By virtue of the powers conferred by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRAG), there is a legal requirement for the Compliance Officer to be in office in order to conduct investigations and reviews. There was no statutory Compliance Officer in post between 10 November 2010 and the appointment of the permanent Compliance Officer on 31 March 2011.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will estimate the costs of conducting an investigation into complaint 3058 lodged with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer. [62585]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, dated June 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking if he will estimate the cost of conducting an investigation into complaint 3058 lodged with the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Officer.

The Compliance Officer is as yet unable to determine the cost of the investigation which began on 13 April 2011.

Members: Complaints

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, on what date the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) compliance office commenced operations; how many staff are engaged to work in the office; what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary is of each post in that office; and what estimate IPSA has made of the annual cost of operating the office. [61810]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Compliance Officer for IPSA, who is statutorily independent of IPSA's executive branch. I have asked him to reply.

Letter from Luke March, dated June 2011:

As the Compliance Officer for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking on what date the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority Compliance Office (IPSA) commenced operations; how many staff are engaged to work in the office; what the (a) job title and (b) salary is of each post in that office; and what estimate IPSA has made of the annual cost of operating the office.

The interim Compliance Officer was appointed on 10 May 2010 to establish the Office and to develop policies and procedures. The first Compliance Officer appointed under the statute took office on 31 March 2011; on a salary of £43,000 for three days a week.

The office of the Compliance Officer employs two full-time members of staff.

(a) The Investigations Manager, salary scale £46,000 - £51,000;

(b) Investigations Officer, salary scale £23,000 - £28,000.

For the year to 31 March 2011, the cost of operating the Compliance Office was £307,000 including salaries and overheads.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the UK's performance in developing carbon capture and storage. [63314]

Charles Hendry: The UK remains at the forefront of global activity for the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS). The allocation last year of up to £1 billion for the capital costs of the first CCS demonstration project is the largest confirmed public funding commitment to a single commercial-scale CCS project in the world.

The Government have also committed to providing public sector investment for a further three commercial-scale CCS projects and made significant investments in a number of smaller scale projects; for example, £6.3 million in the Ferrybridge Carbon Capture 100+ pilot project and £1.6 million in the Oxyfuel/Oxycoal 2 pilot in Renfrew. This investment in demonstrating the technology is underpinned by our proposed energy market reforms, designed to drive commercial investment in new low-carbon generation including CCS.

The forthcoming CCS Roadmap, due to be published in the autumn, will set out further information regarding progress so far and future aims for the development of CCS.

There is also a statutory requirement under the Energy Act 2010 for the Government to report on progress in decarbonising the Great British electricity system and on the development and use of CCS. The first reporting period ends in 2011, with further periods running on a three-year basis starting in 2012. The first of these reports will be published in due course.

Fukushima

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on Fukushima (Interim Report), whether he plans to involve *(a)* nuclear licensed site stakeholder groups and *(b)* local non-governmental organisations in the review of emergency planning arrangements; and whether he plans to publish in full the final report of the review. [63372]

Charles Hendry: Local non-governmental organisations have the opportunity to engage on local nuclear emergency arrangements through nuclear licensed site stakeholder groups. Local issues may be represented by local authority representatives involved in the review.

The conclusions of the review of arrangements will be reflected in updated guidance which is publicly available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/safety_and_sec/emergency_plan/neplg/guidance/guidance.aspx

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on Fukushima (Interim Report), what resources will be provided to support the planned review by the Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group of the UK's national nuclear emergency arrangements; what completion deadline he has given for the report; and whether he plans to publish the full report of the review. [63373]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group's planned review of the UK's national nuclear emergency arrangements will be supported by the Department of Energy and Climate Change's dedicated Civil Nuclear Emergency Planning Team. The conclusions of the review of arrangements will be reflected in guidance which will be updated before the chief inspector's final report in the autumn. The guidance is publicly available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/nuclear/safety_and_sec/emergency_plan/neplg/guidance/guidance.aspx

Public Sector: Energy

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans a national roll-out of the Re:Fit public sector energy efficiency retrofit programme. [62744]

Gregory Barker: Energy efficiency in the public sector is important in order to reduce carbon emissions and to save money spent on energy bills. Re:Fit is an effective model, and is proving to be a success in London. I would encourage other regions and local authorities to learn from the Greater London Authority experience in order to improve their own energy efficiency.

HEALTH

Abortion: Counselling

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) under which provisions of the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation Act 1990, he proposes to sever the financial links between abortion providers and counselling; for what reasons these provisions have never previously been invoked; what criteria will be used to determine the independent character of counselling; and if he will make a statement; [63602]

(2) what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* amendable legislative proposals he plans to lay before the House to alter the arrangements governing abortion counselling; what timetable he has set for the laying of such provisions; if he will publish each item of correspondence with hon. Members relating to this issue; and if he will make a statement. [63675]

Paul Burstow: We are drawing up proposals to enable all women who are seeking an abortion to be offered access to independent counselling. The current arrangements for counselling related to abortion services can be varied within the existing statutory framework for the commissioning of such services. The Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament, expands that framework. These proposals would not affect any of the current provisions of the Abortion Act 1967.

We would want the counselling to be provided by appropriately qualified individuals. Independent counselling will focus on risks to health posed by both the abortion procedure and continuing with the pregnancy enabling a woman to make a decision that would benefit her overall health and wellbeing.

We will seek the permission of hon. Members to publish correspondence on this issue.

Care Homes

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to monitor changes in the level of care home fees in England; [62958]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to monitor changes in the number of placements available in care homes in England. [62960]

Paul Burstow: There has been no change in the Department's long standing policy of not collecting data on the levels of care home fees in England.

The Care Quality Commission, as regulator of health and adult social care services, registers all care and nursing homes and numbers of available places in England. The numbers of care home placements arranged or funded by local authorities in England are monitored via the annual report on social care provision, "Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity Report, England", which is published in April each year by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Further information is available on the Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/community-care-statistics-social-services-activity-england-2009-10-further-release

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of bowel cancer were detected as a result of the bowel cancer screening programme in each year since its inception; and what estimate he has made of the number of additional cases which would have been detected if the age limit for screening had been reduced to 50. [63538]

Paul Burstow: The number of cancers detected by the NHS bowel cancer screening programme in each year since its inception has been provided in the following table.

	Number of cancers detected
2006	40
2007	585
2008	1,701
2009	2,380
2010	3,264
2011 (to 31 May)	1,633

No estimate has been made of the number of additional cases that would have been detected if the age limit for screening were reduced to 50. The original programme only invited people in their 60s because the risk of bowel cancer increases with age, with over 80% of bowel cancers arising in people who are 60 or over.

In the pilot, over three times more cancers were detected in people aged over 60 than under 60, and people in their 60s were most likely to complete a testing kit.

'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, sets out how we have committed to invest £60 million between 2011 and 2014 to incorporate flexible sigmoidoscopy (FS) into the NHS bowel screening programme. Men and women from age 55 will be invited for a once only bowel scope prior to commencing faecal occult blood testing from age 60, as now. Experts estimate FS will save around 3,000 lives every year.

Day Care

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor changes in the number of day care placements in local authorities. [63448]

Paul Burstow: Changes in the numbers of people receiving day care funded either wholly or partly by local authorities in England are monitored via the annual report on social care provision, "Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity Report, England", which is published in April each year by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Further information is available on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/community-care-statistics-social-services-activity-england-2009-10-further-release

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63562]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not keep separate statistics in relation to small and medium-sized businesses, but aims to pay all invoices within five days regardless of the size of the supplier. Performance against that target is published on the Department's website as required by Cabinet Office.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHworks/Servicestandardsandcommitments/DH_117222

In the period 1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011 the Department paid 92.54% of all valid invoices received at our nominated address within five days of receipt.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63573]

Mr Simon Burns: The information on the number of Freedom of Information requests from hon. Members by each political party is shown in the following table:

Freedom of information (FOI) requests from hon. Members by political party

Year (January to December)	Conservative party	Labour party	Liberal Democrat party
2005	3	1	5
2006	23	0	6
2007	8	3	19
2008	5	1	12
2009	4	1	8
2010	3	33	3

These figures may not represent all FOI requests from hon. Members as we only record those that are clearly stated as being from an hon. Member.

The Department does not collect information on the number of requests from members of the public. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, all requests are dealt with equitably and the Department's correspondence database does not categorise FOI questions using the term 'members of the public'.

However, the total number of requests received by the Department each year since the FOI Act 2000 came into force is shown in the following table:

Total number of FOI requests received by the Department

Year (January to December)	Total number of FOI requests received by the Department of Health
2005	1,203
2006	1,411
2007	1,286
2008	1,349
2009	1,897
2010	2,023

Direct Payments

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the tendering of care home contracts to preferred providers where those service users affected wish to maintain provision with their existing provider via the use of direct payments. [63644]

Paul Burstow: The regulations and guidance on direct payments prevent them from being used for care home placements.

Where a person needs to go into residential care, the local authority should arrange care for them in a care home of their choice. In some cases, councils will have a list of preferred providers. The Choice of Accommodation Directions 1992 ensure that people are given a genuine choice when deciding which care home to live in. The Department issued revised guidance on the directions on 14 October 2004.

If an individual in the community needs respite care up to four weeks, in a care home, they can use a direct payment to purchase their care.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of take-up of the direct payment method of providing social care. [63645]

Paul Burstow: The "Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets the context for the future direction of adult social care in England. It states that councils should provide personal budgets, preferably as a direct payment, for everyone eligible, by 2013.

The total number of people receiving self directed support (both direct payments and personal budgets) in 2009-10 was 217,000. Of these there were 107,000 users receiving direct payments, a 24% increase over the previous year. In addition, there were 48,000 carers receiving direct payments, a 56% increase over the previous year. In total, there are 155,000 people in receipt of direct payments.

This is based on the most recent data published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care in April 2011.

Health Services: Learning Disability

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 22, paragraph 3.59 of the Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report, what guidance he proposes to provide on the

requirements for dedicated professional and clinical leadership with regard to services for people with learning disabilities. [63619]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill, clinical commissioning groups will take on responsibility for commissioning the majority of national health service health care services. The Government's response to the NHS Future Forum Report makes clear that it will strengthen existing duties on clinical commissioning groups to secure professional advice and ensure this advice is from a full range of health professionals where relevant. Clinical commissioning groups will also receive expert support and advice from clinical networks and senates on the design and delivery of services, in order to provide the best care and outcomes for patients.

Clinical commissioning groups will be supported and held to account by a national NHS Commissioning Board. An amendment has been put forward to provide for the NHS Commissioning Board to issue guidance to commissioning groups on their duty to obtain appropriate professional advice, for example in relation to working with clinical senates and clinical networks. The NHS Commissioning Board will also develop commissioning guidance to support effective commissioning, and promote consistent national Quality Standards produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to ensure all patients, including those with learning disabilities, receive high quality services.

Home Care Services

Barbara Keeley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to monitor changes in the number of domiciliary care packages offered by local authorities in England. [62959]

Paul Burstow: Changes in the numbers of domiciliary care packages provided by local authorities in England are monitored via the annual report on social care provision, "Community Care Statistics: Social Services Activity Report, England", which is published in April each year by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Further information is available on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/community-care-statistics-social-services-activity-england-2009-10-further-release

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of young women who have experienced side effects from the Cervarix vaccine; [63461]

(2) what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on side effects from the Cervarix vaccine. [63462]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) collects information on suspected side effects to vaccines and medicines via the Yellow Card Scheme. Since the Cervarix (human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine) immunisation programme began in September 2008, the MHRA has received 5,479 reports of suspected side effects up to 29 June 2011 (this includes reports in which the brand of HPV vaccine was not specified). This follows administration of more than five million doses of Cervarix across the United Kingdom to date.

Yellow Card reports relate to 'suspicions' that a side effect may have occurred. They may relate to true side effects, or they may be due to coincidental illness. As reports are not necessarily proof that a vaccine or medicine was a cause of the reported illness, the data cannot be used to estimate the true frequency of side effects to the vaccine. The frequency of known side effects from clinical trials is listed in the available product information.

As with all vaccines and medicines, the MHRA keeps the safety of Cervarix under continual review. The benefits of Cervarix vaccine in protecting against cervical cancer far outweigh any known side effects.

When the Cervarix immunisation programme began in the UK, the MHRA implemented proactive, real-time safety surveillance. This involved daily review of all suspected side effect reports and an epidemiological approach to detection and evaluation of any new safety 'signals'. This included review of data from other countries using the vaccine. MHRA published weekly updates on this surveillance via its website as well as summaries in the Drug Safety Update bulletin April 2009, October 2009 and October 2010:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/index.htm

After the second year of the immunisation programme, the MHRA sought independent expert advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) on the safety experience. This followed administration of more than 4.5 million doses of vaccine in the UK up to July 2010. CHM advised that no serious new risks have been identified in association with Cervarix and the balance of risks and benefits of the vaccine remains positive. A detailed safety assessment was published on the MHRA website in October 2010 at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/HPVvaccine

As with all vaccines and medicines, the MHRA keeps the safety of Cervarix under continual review.

Mental Health Services

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which professional psychotherapy groups he has met to discuss provision of psychotherapy in NHS settings; [63684]

(2) what assessment he has made of the range of psychological therapies available on the NHS; and if he will assess recent changes in the range of therapies available; [63685]

(3) what opportunities are provided for mental health patients to rate the services they have received; [63686]

(4) what opportunities he plans to provide for people using talking therapies to rate the services they have received; [63687]

(5) what consultation he has carried out on the provision of psychological therapies in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [63710]

Paul Burstow: The Mental Health Strategy Ministerial Advisory Group, of which I am Chair, includes in its membership representatives of the psychological therapy disciplines.

It is for the national health service locally to decide how best to meet the needs of its local populations and in doing so they are free to commission a wide range of psychotherapeutic services. In addition, the Department recommends evidence-based, and preferably National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) approved, therapies for the treatment of common mental health problems.

Following the provision of the NICE guidance on the treatment of depression in October 2009, the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme now offers five therapies for the treatment of depression at step three of the stepped care model (moderate to severe). These are:

Cognitive behavioural therapy;

Interpersonal psychotherapy;

Counselling for depression;

Dynamic interpersonal therapy; and

Couples therapy for depression.

The IAPT programme regularly consults with stakeholders about the development of the programme. The IAPT Programme Board has representatives of both commissioners and service providers from the NHS, voluntary providers, therapists' professional associations, service users, social care and the Department for Work and Pensions.

IAPT services routinely collect patient satisfaction information. This is collected at the end of assessment, mid-treatment and end of treatment using the IAPT Patient Experience Questionnaire. The questionnaire asks patients to rate services in a number of areas and also invites patients to make comments on their experience of the service.

The NHS Choices website also provides the opportunity for patients and service users to provide comments and rate health services. This includes mental health services. Service users can provide an overall rating of care; specific ratings of issues including cleanliness, dignity and involvement in decisions; and free text comments. In addition patient comment providers such as Patient Opinion give patients the opportunity to comment through an independent route if they choose.

NHS: Reorganisation

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on commissioning decisions of the incentives of staff of health providers who are also members of commissioning boards, following the implementation of the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [63835]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department published the response to the NHS Future Forum's report on 21 June 2011, which outlined in greater detail arrangements that will ensure there is independent oversight of key governance arrangements, including systems for managing conflicts of interest between commissioners and providers.

Prosthetics

Mrs Mensch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the terms of reference are of the consultation on the Murrison report on prosthetic services. [63838]

Mr Simon Burns: The Terms of Reference for the Review into NHS Prosthetics Services for military veterans are:

Gather evidence on the current and future needs of veterans for prosthetics services, and on the provision and cost of services;

The future funding of high specification, evidence-based prosthetics services within the national health service;

The possible contribution of personal health budgets and the inclusion of this in continuing health care arrangements;

How regional variations in service can be minimised;

The possibility of designating centres of excellence for NHS prosthetics care;

The effectiveness of the Seriously Injured Leavers Protocol currently being piloted;

How the transition from the armed forces' prosthetics care to the NHS can be improved including liaison between the new army recovery centres, the four rehabilitation centres in England, Headley Court and the NHS;

An initiative is in development within the NHS medical directorate to ensure that the NHS deals better with the rehabilitation and recovery needs of the general population. Discussions with clinical advisors to the Department of Health team could consider how to link provision for trauma and after care with these initiatives;

Longer term implications for the new Defence National Rehabilitation Centre;

Clarification of responsibilities in the new NHS architecture for commissioning prosthetics services for those leaving the armed forces; and

The role of service charities in helping to meet the realistic needs of individuals over and above that which the NHS can provide.

Ritalin: Children

Mr McFadden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of Ritalin and similar drugs on young children. [63460]

Mr Simon Burns: Clinical trials submitted by the marketing authorisation holder (MAH) for Ritalin (methylphenidate) were evaluated at the time of licensing to ensure that it met appropriate standards of safety, quality and efficacy to support its use in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Since the marketing of Ritalin, the independent scientific advisory committee, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) and the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have kept its safety under close review. As new data have emerged, product information for prescribers and patients has been updated and advice has been issued.

In June 2007, the MHRA led a European review of the risks and benefits of Ritalin and sought advice from the CHM and an expert working group whose membership included those with expertise in child and adolescent psychiatry. This European review was requested by the European Commission following concerns over the safety of methylphenidate, particularly the possible risk of

cardiovascular disorders (problems affecting the heart and blood vessels) and cerebrovascular disorders (problems affecting the blood vessels in the brain).

The review considered the available data on efficacy and safety and concluded that the benefits of methylphenidate-containing medicines continue to outweigh their risks, when used in their approved indication for children aged six years or over and adolescents with ADHD, as part of a comprehensive treatment programme.

The conclusions of this review were communicated to health care professionals in March 2009 through the MHRA's monthly drug safety bulletin, Drug Safety Update.

The product information of all methylphenidate-containing medicines authorised across Europe, including the patient information leaflets, has been updated to ensure it contains clear, comprehensive information about the effects of methylphenidate and the importance of monitoring children and adolescents throughout their treatment.

Following this, surveillance measures to review the safety of Ritalin continue.

The MAH for Ritalin has been asked to conduct studies to further characterise the safety of methylphenidate, particularly the long-term safety. The information from the ongoing studies will be evaluated as soon as it becomes available.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has also published a technology appraisal on methylphenidate, atomoxetine and dexamfetamine (2006) and are following up with recommendations for the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD (2008).

Skin Cancer: Young People

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of skin melanoma among young people. [63678]

Paul Burstow: SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention campaign run by Cancer Research UK, raises awareness amongst the public and professionals of the risks to health from skin cancer, including melanoma. The SunSmart website

www.sunsmart.org.uk

provides information and advice on prevention and early detection of skin cancer. The primary audience for this year's campaign is 16 to 24-year-olds.

In March, SunSmart also launched a digital campaign entitled 'Leatha Face' to raise awareness amongst young people of the skin cancer risks posed by sunbeds. In addition, the Department has published guidance on the implementation of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010, which came into force on 1 April 2011 and aims to prevent young people under 18 from being allowed to use sunbeds.

Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on whose instruction the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group was established; on what date the decision to establish the Group was taken; how *(a)* patients and *(b)* members of the public were selected to sit on the Group; and on what dates it has met. [63764]

Mr Simon Burns: To support the proposed changes to the commissioning of specialised services, NHS Specialised Services established the Specialised Services Patient and Public Engagement Steering Group at the beginning of the year. The patient representative organisations selected to sit on the group were chosen in partnership with the Specialised Healthcare Alliance. The Group has met on 5 May 2011 and 27 May 2011.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the arrangements for Government in the event that the Prime Minister is incapacitated. [63713]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 February 2011, *Official Report*, column 923W.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr Dodds: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what process he plans to follow to enable the devolved legislatures to contribute to consideration of the future of the House of Lords. [63627]

Mr Harper: The draft House of Lords Reform Bill extends to the whole of the United Kingdom and addresses matters relating to the Parliament of the United Kingdom which is an "excepted matter" under Schedule 2 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and a "reserved matter" under Schedule 5 to the Scotland Act 1998. No relevant powers have been transferred to the National Assembly for Wales or the Welsh Ministers.

We are always willing to hear the views of the devolved Governments and legislatures through correspondence or discussions within forums such as the Joint Ministerial Committee. The Joint Committee is take evidence from those in each part of the UK including the devolved legislatures.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Assistance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase *(a)* levels of net capital investment in small and medium-sized businesses, *(b)* the proportion of managers of small and medium-sized businesses carrying out management or leadership training and *(c)* the use of ICT by small and medium-sized businesses. [61999]

Mr Prisk: The Government have demonstrated their commitment to increasing the level of net capital investment in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) by extending

our commitment to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee to unlock up to £2 billion of additional lending to SMEs over the course of the Parliament, working with the banks to establish the Business Growth Fund in order to secure £2.5 billion of finance for growing small and medium firms, and securing an agreement with five banks on the Merlin commitment of £76 billion of gross new lending to small and medium sized enterprises in 2011. Among other measures, Government have also extended our commitment to the Enterprise Capital Fund programme by £200 million over the Parliament, and have announced changes to the Enterprise Investment Scheme that incentivise equity investment in small firms. The Government have also approved, subject to due diligence, a bid to the Regional Growth Fund for a new £50 million business angel co-investment fund.

In "Skills for Sustainable Growth" published in November 2010, we emphasised the importance of improving leadership and management skills and set out our intention to work with employers, employer bodies, the Trades Union Congress, Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, and others to develop a framework for improving leadership and management skills to encourage high performance working and better use of skills. We are continuing to provide the SME Leadership and Management Programme with priority for support being given to those SMEs that demonstrate a potential for growth, and are looking closely at how best this programme can be integrated or aligned with Business Coaching for Growth from January 2012.

The Government provide information and advice to SMEs on the use of Information and communication technologies through

www.businesslink.gov.uk/

which is the Government's online information (ICT) and advice channel to all businesses. The website includes information on a whole range of issues including detailed guidance on the use of ICT for SMEs.

Businesses: Beckenham

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of regulation on small and medium-sized enterprises in Beckenham. [61135]

Mr Prisk: This Government have set out a clear aim—to leave office having reduced the overall burden of regulation.

In September, the Government introduced the 'One-in, One-out rule' for new regulation so a new regulatory burden cannot be introduced without identifying another to be removed first. In December, we introduced a new approach to transposing EU directives, to end 'gold plating' and ensure they are not transposed in such a way that they disadvantage UK businesses relative to their EU competitors. In March we introduced sunset clauses in new regulations that impose a cost on businesses, to ensure they remain relevant and are fit-for-purpose.

However, we recognise that badly designed regulation and red tape can have a particularly damaging effect on our smallest businesses. In 'The Plan for Growth', published alongside the Budget 2011, as part of a package of measures to improve the UK's regulatory environment, the Government announced that micro-businesses (those with fewer than 10 employees) and start-ups would be exempt from all new domestic regulation for three years. We also decided not to extend the Right to Request Time to Train to SMEs, potentially saving SMEs approximately £350 million and not to bring forward the Dual Discrimination provision, saving business up to £3 million per year.

Last month, the Prime Minister launched the Red Tape Challenge website:

www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

which asks the public and businesses to identify regulations that need to be amended or removed. Every few weeks regulations affecting one specific sector or industry will be published on the website. There is also the opportunity to comment on cross-cutting areas of regulation, such as employment law.

I believe that businesses in the hon. Member's constituency will feel the benefit of these policies in the months and years ahead, as our ambitious reducing regulation agenda makes a positive difference to the UK's business environment.

Care Homes: Private Sector

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the oral answer of 9 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 277, what steps he is planning to take to review the business model of companies that provide public services in the care home sector. [60942]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1080W, to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Nick Smith).

Debt Managers Standards Association

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made by the Office of Fair Trading in its joint working with the Debt Managers Standards Association on standards in the debt management industry. [64018]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) continues to work closely with the Debt Management Standards Association (DEMSA) as it seeks to improve standards in the debt management industry. Such industry engagement is an important and ongoing part of the OFT's action plan announced following the outcome of its Compliance Review published in September 2010.

DEMSA has an OFT Approved Code which means that members are committed to providing high standards of customer service and ensuring consumer rights are protected.

Liaison between DEMSA and OFT is ongoing and takes the form of, for instance, engagement and discussion on the OFT's recently revised draft Debt Management Guidance or a more specific exchange of information in relation to a particular member.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63572]

Mr Davey: In May 2010 a new cross-Government target was introduced that required Departments to pay at least 80% of valid invoices within five working days. The previous target was payment within 10 working days. Over the last 12 months (July 2010 to June 2011 inclusive), the Department has exceeded the 80% target and has paid 95.3% of valid invoices within five working days of receipt.

For information, the Department publishes its monthly payment performance against the five working day target and this can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/procurement/prompt-payment/bis-payment-performance

The Department does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63588]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on 5 June 2009 by merging the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS).

(a) The number of requests BIS has received since its creation from hon. Members:

	Number
2009[1]	10
2010	44
2011[2]	13

[1] From 5 June - 31 December 2009.
[2] From 1 January - 31 March 2011.

These figures may not represent all Freedom of Information requests from MP's as we may only record those that are clearly stated as being from an MP. We do not record the political party of the MP.

(b) The number of requests BIS has received from members of the public since its creation:

	Number
2009[1]	190
2010	481
2011[2]	122

[1] From 5 June - 31 December 2009.
[2] From 1 January - 31 March 2011.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what statistical data his Department has ceased to collect in the last year; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63669]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not ceased any national or official statistical data collection in the last year.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many overseas visits to what destinations he plans to make in an official capacity in the next 12 months. [62647]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, intends to visit Turkey, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam in the coming months.

Directors

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were disqualified from being a director of a company following a recommendation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each year since 2006. [63721]

Mr Davey: No statistics are maintained of company director disqualifications that have Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) involvement as BIS does not receive specific recommendations from SOCA in respect of director disqualifications.

The majority of director disqualifications arise after investigation by the Insolvency Service (an executive agency of BIS) of a company that has entered formal insolvency. The Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 is not restricted to issues arising from insolvencies as, for example, section 2 of the Act provides for disqualification on the conviction of an indictable offence.

Export Development Credits: Colombia

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how he will ensure that export development credits are not made available to businesses which require the use of land in Colombia until a national land register has been established which records the land titles of peasant farmers, Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples. [64097]

Mr Davey: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has not received any applications for support in connection with exports to Colombia. If ECGD was approached, its support would be provided in accordance with the OECD "Revised Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits" (the Common Approaches). Applications for ECGD support that fall within the ambit of the Common Approaches are screened by ECGD for potential environmental, social and human rights impacts, including the impacts of land acquisition and involuntary resettlement. Under the Common Approaches, relevant projects are required to meet international standards, usually those of the World Bank Group. This includes the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 5, which covers land acquisition and involuntary resettlement issues.

ECGD has published guidance on its website on the processes and factors in ECGD's consideration of applications. This guidance explains the applicability of the Common Approaches to the provision of its support for export contracts.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many higher education institutions were deemed to be at risk by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in the most recent period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [64083]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is responsible for monitoring the financial health of the Higher Education institutions and for providing advice and support where appropriate. To protect the viability of institutions at risk, and with the agreement of the Information Commissioner, HEFCE releases information on institutions assessed to be at higher risk three years after the assessment was made. The most recent available information relates to November 2007, when there were six institutions in HEFCE's 'at higher risk' category. The Government accepts the Public Accounts Committee's recent recommendation that this approach should be reviewed and will do this in the context of its forthcoming consultation on the future role of HEFCE.

Manufacturing Industry

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of machine tools procured by the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre were manufactured in the UK. [63441]

Mr Prisk: AMRC is an independent research organisation owned by the university of Sheffield. It is only part funded by Government. Procurement decisions are a matter for the organisation itself, and can only be answered through direct correspondence with the centre or the university.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 415W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what estimate he has made of the cost per flying hour of using *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Harrier aircraft for operations in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) other theatres. [63270]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* Following reductions to the Harrier Force in 2009 by the previous Government, the Harrier was no longer sufficient in size to meet our requirement in Afghanistan. Hence following the strategic defence and security review the Harrier force is no longer in service.

The marginal costs per flying hour of Tornado GR4 is £5,000 per hour. These are the direct running costs, principally made up of consumables such as fuel.

Armed Forces: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel resident in the London borough of Bexley received council tax relief during deployment on specified operations overseas in each of the last three years. [63889]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the draw-down of troops from Germany. [63650]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 369W.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements he plans to put in place to implement the draw-down of troops from Germany. [63652]

Nick Harvey: It is part of the routine business of Headquarters Land Forces (HQ LF) to plan and manage unit moves. For example, in September 2010 the Army completed the move of HQ Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) and its supporting elements from the Rhine Garrison to Innsworth, Gloucestershire. This move and other scheduled activities were planned before we completed the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Consequently, there is already a team in HQ LF which is carrying out the necessary work. Once we have concluded the basing study, this team will work with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, UK Support Command (Germany) and the German authorities to develop and implement the larger draw-down plan.

Armed Forces: Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what service personnel accommodation his Department provides by *(a)* type and *(b)* grade in each local authority area. [63864]

Mr Robathan: A table showing the number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK, broken down by county, SFA type and standard for condition, as at 30 June 2011 will be placed in the Library of the House.

Currently 96% of UK SFA is in good condition, and this includes an assessment of the stock in Northern Ireland.

The number of single living accommodation bed spaces broken down by local authority area is not held.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel of each rank based at each location received the continuity education allowance (CEA) in each financial year since 2000-01; and how much was paid to service personnel of each rank in CEA in each such year. [63358]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 July 2011]*: The purpose of continuity of education allowance (CEA) is to allow the children of service personnel to achieve a stable education against a background of parental postings both at home, and overseas.

The amount of CEA paid to each rank from financial year 2007-08 onwards can be found in the following tables. Prior to the implementation of the joint personnel administration system (JPA), this information was held on single service legacy systems and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I announced to the House on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 116W, changes to the regulations governing CEA that took effect from 1 April 2011. These changes altered the rules regarding involuntary separated service, transfer to day schooling, the aggregation of claims and the formal review of claims.

In addition, a dedicated team is being established to ensure probity and compliance of future claims and a review of CEA is being conducted to ensure this expenditure is fully justified.

I will write to the right hon. Member about the number of service personnel of each rank by location receiving CEA and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Number of personnel in receipt of CEA

	Financial year			
Army Rank or equivalent	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Lieutenant/ Second lieutenant	10	10	10	10
Captain	620	610	640	650
Major	1,070	1,040	1,000	1,020
Lieutenant colonel	1,140	1,150	1,120	1,120
Colonel	470	480	480	460
Brigadier	180	160	160	160
Major general	40	40	40	40
Lieutenant general	10	10	10	[1]—
General	[1]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—
Private	40	40	70	80
Lance corporal	40	40	50	80
Corporal	360	370	360	380
Sergeant	660	640	680	690
Staff sergeant	720	710	680	660
Warrant officer 2	360	400	470	480
Warrant officer 1	290	280	260	290
Grand total	6,010	5,990	6,020	6,090

[1] Represents five or fewer.
[2] Represents zero.
Notes:
Rounding has been applied to all figures. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Totals have been rounded separately and therefore may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

Amount of CEA paid by rank (£ million)

	Financial year			
Army rank or equivalent	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Lieutenant/ Second lieutenant	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Captain	10.9	11.6	11.8	12.1
Major	18.8	19.3	19.9	20.4
Lieutenant colonel	23.6	24.9	25.3	25.8
Colonel	9.5	9.8	10.6	11.0
Brigadier	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6
Major general	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Lieutenant general	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
General	0.1	—	0.1	0.1
Private	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.1
Lance corporal	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0
Corporal	4.6	5.1	5.0	5.3
Sergeant	9.2	9.8	10.2	10.9
Staff sergeant	10.3	10.9	10.7	10.4
Warrant officer 2	5.3	6.4	7.2	7.6
Warrant officer 1	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.6
Cost of CEA claims	101.8	108.1	111.3	114.9
Cost of Tax and NI for CEA[1]	60.3	64.7	65.6	[2]—
Total cost of CEA to the MOD	162.2	172.8	176.9	[2]—

[1] Tax and National Insurance on CEA paid to HMRC by the MOD on behalf of the individual.
[2] Not yet available

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Ridgback, *(c)* Warrior, *(d)* Panther, *(e)* Coyote, *(f)* Husky, *(g)* Warthog, *(h)* Wolfhound and *(i)* Jackal vehicles can be transported on An-124 aircraft leased under the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution; [63065]

(2) how many *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Ridgback, *(c)* Warrior, *(d)* Panther, *(e)* Coyote, *(f)* Husky, *(g)* Warthog, *(h)* Wolfhound and *(i)* Jackal vehicles may be transported on (i) An-124, (ii) C-17 and (iii) C-130 aircraft per flight. [63066]

Peter Luff: Mastiff, Ridgback, Warrior, Panther, Coyote, Husky, Warthog, Wolfhound and Jackal vehicles can be transported on chartered Antonov AN-124 and the RAF C17 aircraft. However, Mastiff, Ridgback, Warrior, Warthog and Wolfhound cannot be transported on the RAF C130K and C130J variants of the Hercules aircraft as their physical dimensions exceed cargo hold limitations.

The following table provides details of the total number of each vehicle type that can be carried on a single aircraft.

Vehicle type	*AN-124*	*C-17*	*C-130K*	*C-130J*
Mastiff	3	2	[1]—	[1]—
Ridgback	4	2	[1]—	[1]—

Vehicle type	AN-124	C-17	C-130K	C-130J
Warrior	2	1	[1]—	[1]—
Panther	10	5	1	1
Coyote	6	3	1	1
Husky	6	2	1	1
Warthog	4	1	[1]—	[1]—
Wolfhound	3	2	[1]—	[1]—
Jackal	11	5	1	1

[1] Not transported.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicle programme; and if he will make a statement; [63740]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of the Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicle programme. [63741]

(3) what estimate he has made of how many vehicles will be supplied to the armed forces under the Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicle programme. [63742]

Peter Luff: The Future Rapid Effect System has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent programmes, one of which is the utility vehicle programme. The Department continues to examine the best way to take the utility vehicle programme forward. The total cost of the utility vehicle programme and platform numbers will be confirmed when the main investment decision is taken. The Department does not publish such estimates before this point as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of how many vehicles will be supplied to the armed forces under the Terrier programme. [63760]

Peter Luff: Terrier is an armoured earthmoving vehicle that will provide an improved capability to support mobility, counter-mobility and survivability throughout the spectrum of conflict. 60 vehicles will be supplied.

Civil Service: Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the size was of the pension liability in respect of his Department's civil servants in each year since 1997; and what actuarial forecasts his Department has made of such liabilities in future years. [63471]

Mr Robathan: The capitalised value of the liability in respect of all members contributing to the principal civil service pension scheme is shown each year in the report of the actuary contained in the Cabinet Office: civil superannuation accounts. Copies of the accounts up to 2009-10 can be found in the Library of the House. However, the liability in respect of civil servants serving in individual Departments is not recorded separately and this figure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cash equivalent transfer value is of pensions owed to current and former civil servants of his Department. [63472]

Mr Robathan: Cash equivalent transfer values for civil servants on the Defence Board are shown in the remuneration report of the Department's annual resource accounts. Transfer values for the Department's other current civil servants or for any former civil servants are not routinely calculated, and these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cash equivalent transfer value is of the pension of a civil servant in his Department at retirement. [63473]

Mr Robathan: Cash equivalent transfer values for civil servants on the Defence Board are shown in the remuneration report of the Department's annual resource accounts. Transfer values for the Department's other current civil servants are not routinely calculated, and would vary depending upon personal circumstances and the section of the civil service pension scheme to which the member belongs. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Capabilities

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's current standing commitments are; what capabilities are deployed in order to meet these commitments in each case; and for what reasons each such commitment is essential to UK security or British interest. [63356]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Ministry of Defence has several standing commitments. These include strategic intelligence, the strategic nuclear deterrent, defence against direct threats to the UK and its overseas territories, counter-terrorism and military aid to the civil authorities. These roles are essential to the UK's safety and security and support key British interests around the world.

A range of specialist capabilities are deployed in order to meet these commitments. I am withholding the detail of what these capabilities are and the reasons for the commitment, as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which defence projects were awaiting approval by his Department on the last date for which information is available. [63648]

Peter Luff: As at 30 June 2011, business cases for the following major projects had been submitted to the relevant departmental approval authority for decision. These include projects that are at various stages of the process from initial circulation, clarification of outstanding issues to a final decision.

Elements of the Complex Weapons pipeline

Elements of Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme

Core Production Capability

Acquisition of new Chinooks

Project Phoenix

Maritime Equipment Transformation

Seaseeker.

Defence Assistance Fund

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Assistance Fund is in operation. [59001]

Dr Fox: The Defence Assistance Fund is a Ministry of Defence fund used to finance activities in support of bilateral defence relationships to strengthen international security and co-operation and remains in operation.

Defence: Equipment and Support

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the Indirect Fire Precision Attack programme is included in the Gray Review; [63739]

(2) whether the Future Rapid Effect System programme is included in the Gray Review; [63743]

(3) whether the Merlin Capability Sustainment Programme is included in the Gray Review; [63747]

(4) whether the Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile programme is included in the Gray Review; [63751]

(5) whether the search and rescue helicopter project is included in the Gray Review. [63818]

Peter Luff: I am interpreting the Gray Review to be "The Materiel Strategy" currently being developed by the Chief of Defence Materiel. This will not address individual projects but will consider the Defence Equipment and Support organisation's performance more generally, including establishing its core role and how it can deliver its business most efficiently and effectively. This review will be coherent with Lord Levene's Defence Reform recommendations and my forthcoming White Paper which I expect to publish later this year. The Materiel Strategy will be implemented from early 2012 onwards.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to reduce expenditure through rationalisation of the defence estates. [63653]

Mr Robathan: Following the strategic defence and security review the Ministry of Defence announced it would achieve cost reductions of up to £350 million per year on the defence estate. This includes those arising through the rationalisation of the estate, including the sale of surplus land and buildings, associated running cost savings and a revised approach to the way the Department manages and delivers infrastructure services.

The creation of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation with effect from 1 April 2011 was the first major step to achieving these savings and will improve decision-making on estate and rationalisation issues.

Defence: Reform

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many consultants were employed by his Department to assist or participate in the Defence Reform Unit's independent report into the structure and management of his Department. [63354]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* None.

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63571]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code and is fully committed, along with the Department's trading partners, to pay all suppliers as quickly as possible.

We aim to pay 80% of invoices within five working days. The following cumulative performance has been achieved, in the 12 months to 31 May 2011.

	Number/Percentage
Invoices paid	4,353,287
Percentage within five day target	94.75

The five-day target and the above performance relate to all MOD suppliers, irrespective of size, as it would be impractical to differentiate between small and medium enterprises and others.

Departmental Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed by his Department's *(a)* Defence Estates and *(b)* corporate services in (i) Scotland, (ii) England, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) Wales in each year since 2007. [63068]

Mr Robathan: The headcount of employees in the Defence Estates organisation as at 1 April each year up to 2010 is shown in the following table. On 1 April 2011 the new Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) was established and the figure given reflects the new organisation.

	Headcount				
	As at April each year:				
	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
Defence Estates and Defence Infrastructure Organisation[1] Total[2]	2,800	2,630	2,600	2,750	3,120
Scotland	200	190	210	220	270
England	2,120	2,100	2,100	2,260	2,520
Northern Ireland	420	270	230	220	240
Wales	60	60	60	60	90

[1] Defence Infrastructure Organisation was formed as at 1 April 2011, comprising former Defence Estates TLB plus TLB property and facilities management functions previously situated within other TLBs.

[2] Table excludes personnel employed outside the UK in overseas or unknown government regions.

Note:

All figures have been individually rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum precisely to totals.

There is no single body of staff in the MOD defined as "corporate services"; depending on the definition adopted, staff from several different businesses might be included in the list.

Fire Services

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps he is taking to ensure effective co-operation between the Ministry of Defence Fire Service and fire and rescue services in the event of serious fire incidents at defence *(a)* research and *(b)* storage facilities; and if he will make a statement; [63206]

(2) whether he has met officials from the Health and Safety Executive as part of its investigation into the response to the fires at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in August 2010; [63207]

(3) what assessment he has made of the performance of the Ministry of Defence Fire Service in responding to the fires at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in August 2010. [63359]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* Fire services employed on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate have established plans that identify the respective roles and responsibilities of the MOD fire services and the local authority fire services in the event of fire incidents at Defence establishments. In support of the mutual co-operation and interoperability that already exists between these organisations, joint training and exercises are regularly undertaken, as are liaison visits to review risks and to ensure emergency responders maintain familiarity with the sites' facilities, hazards and operational procedures. These arrangements are in place at all Defence sites where MOD fire services are established, including research and storage facilities.

Several local authority fire and rescue services responded to the fire at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) on 3 August 2010, including Royal Berkshire, Hampshire and the London fire brigade, as well as the AWE fire and rescue service and the Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO). DFRMO has investigated the fire and rescue services' operational response to the fire. Their report, which was published on the MOD website on 9 June, identifies a number of learning points and provides recommendations to rectify those shortfalls identified in the fire services' response to the fire incident. The DFRMO report can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DES/OurPublications/HealthandSafety/

I have also placed a copy of the report in the Library of the House, along with the DFRMO report on their investigation into the cause of the fire.

There have been no meetings between MOD Ministers and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) concerning the latter's investigation into the fire at the Atomic Weapons Establishment and none have been needed, although MOD officials with regulatory responsibilities meet routinely with the HSE and other relevant bodies as part of their duties.

Helicopters

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters are under order by his Department; and when he expects them to be delivered. [63655]

Peter Luff: There are currently 62 Lynx Wildcat on order from AgustaWestland, of which 34 Lynx Wildcat (Army variant) are due to be delivered incrementally between 2012 and 2016, with the remaining 28 Lynx Wildcat (Navy variant) being delivered between 2013 and 2017. As announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we plan to buy 12 additional Chinook helicopters for the RAF, as well as a further two to replace those lost on operations in Afghanistan in 2009. We continue to work closely with Boeing on the assessment phase of this programme prior to the main investment decision on these helicopters.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service pilots have flown field carrier landing practice missions; on which aircraft such missions have been flown; and how many such missions there have been. [63310]

Nick Harvey: Field carrier landing practice missions are not currently carried out by the Royal Navy or RAF. Individual pilots on secondment to the US Navy conduct such missions in T-45 Goshawk and F-18 Hornet aircraft, but information on the number of these missions is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Libya: Armed Conflict

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether officials of his Department involved in post-conflict planning in Libya have discussed the task with officials involved in post-conflict planning after the invasion of *(a)* Afghanistan in 2001 and *(b)* Iraq in 2003. [63086]

Nick Harvey: Officials have had many discussions regarding post-conflict planning. These discussions have involved those with previous experience of post-conflict planning to ensure that any appropriate lessons learnt from Afghanistan and Iraq are fed into the planning process.

Military Aircraft: Repairs and Maintenance

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many maintainers there are per airframe in the *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Fleet Air Arm and *(c)* Army Air Corps. [62106]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Aircraft maintenance is carried out by service personnel, Ministry of Defence civilians and as part of contractual agreements with industry across all three services.

NATO

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Weapon System Partnerships the UK has participated in through NATO's Maintenance and Supply Agency; and what the *(a)* partner country and *(b)* weapon system is in each case. [62175]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The UK is a member of the following NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) Weapon System Partnerships (WSP):

Artillery Rocket and Missile Systems (ARMS) WSP with France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Turkey and USA. This partnership supports the Multiple Launch Rocket System.

Helicopter WSP with Germany, Greece, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and Austria. This partnership supports the overhaul and upgrade of Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan theatre.

Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) WSP with Denmark, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Turkey. This partnership supports maritime tactical data links.

Ammunition WSP with Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and USA. This supports ammunition procurement and the disposal of obsolete or redundant items.

Mobile Pipeline Repair Equipment (MPRE)/War Damage Repair (WARDAM) WSP with Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Turkey. This WSP supports the overhaul of high pressure and low pressure pumps, shock reducing valves and pressure reducing valves.

Global Positioning Systems (GPS) WSP with Canada, Netherlands, and US. This WSP provides technical and engineering support for GPS systems.

RAF Menwith Hill: Manpower

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK national *(a)* full-time employees and *(b)* full-time equivalent employees there were at Menwith Hill on the most recent date for which figures are available; and in what capacity they are employed. [63659]

Nick Harvey: As of 30 June 2011 the following number of UK nationals were employed at RAF Menwith Hill:

	Number
Ministry of Defence	389
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency	165
UK Contractors full-time	54
UK Contractors part-time	24

I am withholding further information in the interests of national security.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has allocated funding for the purposes of defence capacity building in Somaliland during the comprehensive spending review period. [63271]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* There are no plans to allocate Ministry of Defence funds to defence capacity building in Somaliland. The United Kingdom's contribution to security sector reform in Somaliland is carried out under the tri-departmental conflict prevention pool.

Timber

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the effects of his Department's policies on the availability of wood for commercial purposes. [63613]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD), its agencies and its non-departmental public bodies ensure compliance with Government policy on timber and wood derived products. The MOD has a standard condition that is used in all contracts where such products are to be supplied. It requires the contractor to obtain and retain evidence of sustainability for timber and wood-containing products delivered to the MOD and consumed during performance of contracts. We are not aware that any of the contractors have encountered problems sourcing sufficient supplies to meet our requirements. The Department has not assessed the effect of its purchasing strategy on the wider timber market.

Trident Submarines

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from a reduction in the number of operational warheads on the Vanguard class submarines to no more than 120. [63656]

Nick Harvey: We are reducing the number of operational warheads to demonstrate our commitment to maintaining only the minimum nuclear deterrent necessary. The resulting financial saving was not a factor in this decision, however we do expect to save some tens of millions of pounds over the next 10 years. This contributes to the overall £1.2 billion of savings on the deterrent programme identified in the strategic defence and security review.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Billing

Oliver Heald: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of invoices from small and medium-sized businesses were paid by his Department within five working days of receipt in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [63568]

Mr Maude: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and could not be obtained without exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold.

For details of Cabinet Office invoices paid on time I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 June 2011, *Official Report,* column 843W, to the right hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen (Mr Denham).

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63586]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not collect statistics about the background of individual requesters. This is because the Freedom of Information Act is applicant and motive blind and therefore it is not necessary to record or determine whether a requestor is a Member of Parliament or member of the public.

The Ministry of Justice publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the volume, timeliness and outcome of information requests received by over 40 central Government bodies.

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what statistical data, other than official statistics, his Department has ceased to collect in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* savings arising from each such cessation were. [63664]

Mr Maude: Over the last 12 months the Cabinet Office has ceased to collect the following statistical data:

Horizon scan a programme of activity analysing the accounts of suppliers considered to be critical to Government delivery for signs of financial distress, and working with suppliers at risk of bankruptcy to turn situations around. There were two FTEs assigned to this work in the centre, with ad hoc support from senior commercial leaders. This work was stopped as it was overtaken by a new supplier management strategy;

The Operational Efficiency Programme reporting: There was never a costing of this, however it incurred significant manpower costs for all the 100 plus organisations that completed it, from several man days for a small organisation to an estimate of several hundred man days for the largest completing organisation. This was stopped because it was considered highly inefficient to deliver poor quality data;

The CAF supplier reporting: A six monthly statistical survey of our key IT suppliers, focusing on delivery quality, cost and efficacy; and of their customers. The manpower in the centre to support this was around two FTEs. A decision was taken to suspend the CAF process while consideration was given to recent work on the crown commercial portfolio, and launch of an alternative if necessary later in the year;

The Government CPO has cancelled the programme of PSPES data survey on public sector procurement spend providing expenditure details by supply market category of every significant central Government organisation. There were two FTEs centrally leading this work. This was stopped as plans are under way to collect procurement spend data in a more efficient and timely manner as part of ERG's Centralising Commodity Procurement programme.

The Government are committed to reducing statistical data collections as a way of reducing burdens and cost on all involved. There would be a disproportionate cost to accurately calculating what has been saved by stopping the collection of these data sets as work spanned across not just the Cabinet Office but resources across all central Government Departments involved in the completion of these exercises.

Employment

Mr Clappison: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* people born in the UK, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU foreign nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [63837]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) people born in the UK, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals (i) aged over 16 years and (ii) of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. 63837

The requested information is provided in the attached table.

Labour market statistics published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin previously described as working age (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59) have now been replaced with statistics based on those aged 16-64 for both men and women. Consequently, the estimates provided have been produced on this basis.

Employment levels and rates[1] for people aged 16 and over, by nationality and country of birth[2]—Three months ending March, June, September, December, 2008 to 2011—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

		Aged over 16 years									
		UK nationals	*Rate (%)*	*UK born*	*Rate (%)*	*Foreign nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-UK EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*
2008	Q2	27,138	60	25,729	60	2,306	63	1,084	70	1,222	58
2008	Q3	27,167	60	25,762	60	2,323	64	1,069	70	1,254	59
2008	Q4	27,008	59	25,565	60	2,383	64	1,075	69	1,307	60
2009	Q1	26,713	59	25,251	59	2,354	63	1,119	69	1,235	59
2009	Q2	26,494	58	25,063	58	2,311	62	1,104	69	1,207	57
2009	Q3	26,702	58	25,276	59	2,272	63	1,085	69	1,187	59
2009	Q4	26,671	58	25,236	58	2,297	62	1,070	68	1,228	58
2010	Q1	26,459	58	25,012	58	2,262	61	1,077	67	1,185	56
2010	Q2	26,502	58	25,053	58	2,414	62	1,182	69	1,232	57
2010	Q3	26,881	58	25,391	59	2,412	64	1,213	70	1,199	59
2010	Q4	26,777	58	25,278	58	2,414	64	1,218	70	1,196	58
2011	Q1[3]	26,636	58	25,089	58	2,501	63	1,308	70	1,193	57

Employment levels and rates[1] for people aged 16 to 64, by nationality and country of birth[2]—Three months ending March, June, September, December, 2008 to 2011—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

		Aged 16 to 64 years									
		UK nationals	*Rate (%)*	*UK born*	*Rate (%)*	*Foreign nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-UK EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*	*Non-EU nationals*	*Rate (%)*
2008	Q2	26,461	73	25,088	73	2,288	68	1,073	78	1,214	61
2008	Q3	26,499	73	25,127	74	2,303	69	1,058	78	1,245	62
2008	Q4	26,323	73	24,912	73	2,362	68	1,062	77	1,300	63
2009	Q1	26,022	72	24,600	72	2,333	68	1,105	77	1,228	62
2009	Q2	25,788	71	24,399	71	2,287	66	1,086	76	1,201	59
2009	Q3	25,975	71	24,588	72	2,248	68	1,068	76	1,180	61
2009	Q4	25,923	71	24,529	72	2,279	67	1,058	76	1,221	61
2010	Q1	25,694	70	24,286	71	2,245	66	1,067	75	1,178	59
2010	Q2	25,701	71	24,287	71	2,391	67	1,169	76	1,222	60
2010	Q3	26,052	71	24,608	72	2,391	68	1,204	76	1,187	62
2010	Q4	25,927	71	24,468	71	2,391	68	1,206	77	1,185	61
2011	Q1[3]	25,770	71	24,277	71	2,480	68	1,296	77	1,184	60

[1] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.
[2] Excludes those whose nationality and/or country of birth was not known.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:
* 0 = CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 = CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 = CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ? 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels mobile home sites etc.)

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Departmental Statistics

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* longitudinal and *(b)* other (i) research and (ii) collection of data the Office of National Statistics has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months. [63666]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what (a) longitudinal and (b) other (i) research and (ii) collection of data the Office of National Statistics has (A) initiated, (B) terminated and (C) amended in the last 12 months. 63666

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be obtained (compiled) only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION

GCE A-level

Elizabeth Truss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* modern schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* selective schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges and *(f)* other further education sector colleges with post-16 provision offer an A-level in (i) mathematics, (ii) further mathematics, (iii) physics and (iv) chemistry; [61958]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* modern schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* selective schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges and *(f)* other further education sector colleges with post-16 provision offer an A-level in (i) biology, (ii) English literature, (iii) history, (iv) geography and (v) at least one foreign language; [62146]

(3) how many and what proportion of *(a)* modern schools, *(b)* comprehensive schools, *(c)* selective schools, *(d)* independent schools, *(e)* sixth form colleges and *(f)* other further education sector colleges with post-16 provision offer an A-level in (i) accounting, (ii) art and design, (iii) business studies, (iv) communication and culture, (v) dance, (vi) design and technology, (vii) drama or theatre studies, (viii) electronics, (ix) film studies, (x) home economics, (xi) information and communication technology, (xii) law, (xiii) media studies, (xiv) music technology, (xv) sports studies, (xvi) travel and tourism and (xvii) environmental studies. [62147]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 June 2011]:* The available information has been placed in the House Libraries.

GCSE

Nadhim Zahawi: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what proportion of marks in all *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations are given for (i) coursework and (ii) written examinations in (A) 1997 and (B) 2010; [64001]

(2) what proportion of *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-level examinations sat in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010 contained a coursework element; [64002]

(3) what proportion of GCSE examinations sat in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2010 were taken in modules. [64003]

Mr Gibb: The information can be found on Pages 7 and 8 of the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's 2005 report "A review of GCE and GCSE coursework arrangements":

http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/q/qcda%20cousework%20report.pdf

GCSE weightings for all new specifications, most of which were first examined in 2011, can be found in the National Archives information on controlled assessments:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/2421.aspx

We do not have access to data from 1997.

Paragraphs 6 and 7 of Ofqual's advice to the Secretary of State on unitisation of GCSEs giving figures for the proportion of candidates taking assessment in a linear way this summer can be found on the following link:

http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/news-and-announcements/83/660

GCSE: Assessments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what results pupils of each school of the Schools Partnership Trust achieved in GCSE examinations in each of the last 10 years; and what the rate of *(a)* truancy and *(b)* (i) temporary and (ii) permanent exclusion was in each school in each such year. [62700]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 28 June 2011]:* The available information for state-funded secondary schools in the Schools Partnership Trust is shown in the following table.

Information for Garforth Academy and Rossington All Saints Academy is not available as these schools opened in November 2010 and April 2011 respectively.

GCSE examination results, rates of authorised and unauthorised absence and percentage of fixed period and permanent exclusions in state-funded schools in the School Partnership Trust 2009/10

	Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A-C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs*	*Authorised absence rate*[1]	*Unauthorised rate*[1]	*Percentage of fixed period exclusions*[2]	*Percentage of permanent exclusions*[2]
De Warenne Academy	30	6.61	2.27	[3]—	[3]—
South Leeds Academy	29	8.47	6.01	[3]—	[3]—

[1] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[2] The number of permanent/fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered).
[3] Not available. Exclusion data for 2009/10 is due to be published at the end of July 2011.

Health Education: Sex

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that maintained schools are prevented from teaching aspects of sex and relationships education in science lessons that are not covered by the national curriculum for science as part of his Department's review of personal, social, health and economic education. [63908]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 5 July 2011]:* We trust teachers to use their professional judgement when following the national curriculum programmes of study for science. We do not therefore consider it necessary to impose preventative measures on maintained schools to stop them teaching sex and relationship education (SRE) within national curriculum science lessons.

SRE is covered in personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education which will be subject to an internal review.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were eligible for free school meals in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Redditch constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [63240]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary[1,2,3] *and special schools*[4]*: Free school meal eligibility*[5,6]*. As at January 2011 in Worcestershire local authority and Redditch parliamentary constituency*

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1,2]			*State-funded secondary schools*[1,3]			*Special schools*[4]		
	No. on roll[5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]	*% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]	*No. on roll*[5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]	*% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]	*No. on roll*[5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]	*% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals*[5,6]
Worcestershire local authority	36,624	5,225	14.3	32,475	3,838	11.8	958	309	32.3

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary[1,2,3] and special schools[4]: Free school meal eligibility[5,6]. As at January 2011 in Worcestershire local authority and Redditch parliamentary constituency

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1,2]			State-funded secondary schools[1,3]			Special schools[4]		
	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]
Redditch parliamentary constituency	4,553	883	19.4	6,107	1,010	16.5	149	59	39.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[6] Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
Source:
School Census

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were eligible for free school meals in *(a)* Dartford constituency and *(b)* Kent in the latest period for which figures are available. [63285]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Maintained nursery, state-funded primary, state-funded secondary[1,2,3] and special schools[4]: Free school meal eligibility[5,6]. As at January 2011 in Dartford parliamentary constituency and Kent local authority

	Maintained nursery and state-funded primary schools[1,2]			State-funded secondary schools[1,3]			Special schools[4]		
	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	No. on roll[5]	No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]	% known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals[5,6]
Dartford parliamentary constituency	8,304	1,111	13.4	6,800	596	8.8	293	82	28.0
Kent local authority	106,298	16,217	15.3	81,714	9,435	11.5	2,763	872	31.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes primary academies.
[3] Includes city technology colleges and secondary academies.
[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
6 Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming for free school meals who have full-time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part-time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
Source:
School Census

The latest information, for January 2011, on free school meal eligibility and other school and pupil information can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s001012/index.shtml

Religion: English Baccalaureate

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the exclusion of religious education from the English Baccalaureate; and if he will place copies of such representations in the Library. [63642]

Mr Gibb: The Department has received 2,592 pieces of correspondence about religious education and the English Baccalaureate since September 2010. Due to the high volume it is not practical to place copies in the Library but the key points made are covered in the

records of the Westminster Hall debate on 17 May, *Official Report*, column 27WH, and in evidence given by religious education organisations to the Education Select Committee.

Schools: Buildings

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of *(a)* actual and *(b)* potential capital expenditure on school buildings for each year from 2009-10 to 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [62400]

Mr Gibb: Decisions on investment in schools are made locally and the Department does not collect data on, or make forecasts of, expenditure on school buildings. Most of the capital which the Department allocates to local authorities for schools is not ring-fenced. Up to 2010-11, significant amounts of the funding allocated to local authorities were in the form of supported borrowings, and local authorities may not fully have raised their nominal allocations. Local authorities and schools may use other sources of funding in addition to the funding they are allocated by the Department.

For the spending review period from 2011-12 until 2014-15, the Department has capital resources of £15.9 billion.

Schools: Transport

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many free school bus passes were given to children in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and how many such passes he expects to be issued in 2011-12. [62940]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 30 June 2011]:* The information requested is not collected centrally for England. Department for Education officials have forwarded the question to the chief executive at Nottinghamshire county council with a request to supply any available information directly to the hon. Member.

Social Workers: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children's social workers were employed by bodies other than local authorities in 2010-11. [62640]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect this data and is therefore unable to provide the requested information. Analysis of the GSCC's Social Care register at March 2007 suggested that 7,700 of the 76,300 social workers registered at that time were being employed outside local authorities.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 7 July 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr David Davis: To ask the Attorney-General in how many cases the Crown Prosecution Service has *(a)* given an individual immunity from prosecution and *(b)* sought a reduced sentence for an offender in return for co-operation and assistance to the prosecution since 2006. [58757]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 9 June 2011]:* The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains information for its own internal management purposes on the number of agreements made under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCPA) to provide immunity or seek a reduced sentence since 2006. The information should be treated with caution as it was intended for internal use only, and in the earlier years it may not have captured every agreement made under SOCPA. However, it gives a good indication of the general level of use of such agreements.

The information available from the CPS is as follows:

SOCPA Section	*Number of Agreements*
Section 71	7
Section 72	11
Section 73	114
Section 74	26

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what criteria the Endowment Fund Panel 2011 will apply when deciding on the organisations which are to receive endowments; [64405]

(2) who is to sit on the Endowment Fund advisory panel; [64490]

(3) whether Michael Portillo is to be remunerated for his work as chair of the Endowment Fund panel. [64491]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The criteria to be applied by the Endowment Fund panel will be published later in the year, together with other material relevant to the applications process. The right hon. Michael Portillo will chair the advisory panel and not be remunerated for this work. Other members of the panel will be announced in September.

Arts: Licensing

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Coventry South of 27 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 480W, on performing arts: licensing, whether he plans to issue the public consultation on proposals related to live entertainment licensing before the summer adjournment. [64510]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I hope to issue the public consultation on proposals related to live entertainment by the end of this month.

BSkyB: News Corporation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to make a decision on News Corporation's acquisition of BSkyB before the summer adjournment; and if he will make an oral statement to the House on his decision on the date of its announcement. [64404]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The current consultation period concludes at midday on 8 July. After that, I will consider all the responses to that consultation and will make my decision once I have done so.

Football

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of standards of governance in football. [62233]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I am on record as saying I believe there must be more independence and greater diversity in the football authorities' boards than there is now; much clearer evidence of joint working between those authorities; and that any obstacles to supporter involvement in their clubs should be removed.

The inquiry by the Culture, Media and Sport Committee is looking into the wide range of football governance issues. I look forward to their report after which I will set out the Government's view in our subsequent response.

Mobile Phones: Radio Frequencies

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to revising the licence fees for the 900 MHz spectrum for fourth generation mobile communications technology; and if he will make a statement. [64406]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom sets the level of the licence fees payable for this spectrum, following due process. Part of the Direction from Government to Ofcom in December 2010 was to liberalise this spectrum for 3G services and to revise the fees payable for spectrum at 900MHz and 1800MHz, following the combined auction of the 800MHz and 2.6GHz bands. Ofcom are obliged to take into account the value of the spectrum auctioned when setting the revised fees for the former bands.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what consideration he has given to stipulating coverage obligations across the nations and regions of the UK as part of the auction of fourth generation mobile communications spectrum; [64407]

(2) what timetable the Government has set for the auction of fourth generation mobile communications spectrum; [64408]

(3) what plans he has made to *(a)* reduce the likelihood of and *(b)* avoid any delay to the auction of fourth generation mobile communications spectrum arising from any legal challenge. [64409]

Mr Vaizey: The design and timing of the auction is a matter for Ofcom. Ofcom has consulted on this recently, proposing a 95% coverage obligation on one of the licences and are considering the responses calling for changes to their proposals. Ofcom is aiming to carry out an auction in the first half of 2012. If there is any legal challenge to the auction then that would be made to Ofcom. Given the benefits to the economy and to citizens and consumers, it is in the national interest that this spectrum is released as soon as possible. We would not welcome any further delay to the release of this spectrum. We would hope that any organisation that might consider legal action recognises the importance of carrying out the auction as soon as possible.

SCOTLAND

Access to Work Programme

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees with disabilities in his Department are receiving support from the Access to Work programme; and what proportion of the workforce of his Department this figure represents. [64392]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. Detailed information relating to staff who have declared disabilities is retained by the individual staff member's parent body.

WALES

Departmental Buildings

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on *(a)* new furniture, *(b)* decoration and *(c)* structural alterations during the recent refurbishment of Gwydyr House. [63537]

Mr David Jones: On *(a)*, nothing was spent on new furniture. In terms of *(b)* and *(c)*, in May 2010, on the change of Government, it was apparent that Gwydyr House, a grade 2* listed building, was in need of a significant amount of work to make it structurally sound. A large office on the ground floor was unusable and most of the staff who had previously occupied the room had been temporarily evacuated to another building, as the room was occupied by acro props that were supporting a first floor office. The acro props had been installed following advice from a structural engineer that the condition of the building was unsafe, and work was subsequently carried out over the summer of 2010 to complete all the structural repairs, including the installation of steel beams to stabilise the floor that was at risk of collapse. Work also took place to address various health and safety and DDA compliance issues within Gwydyr House. Work was carried out after consultation with English Heritage, given the listed status of the building. The overall cost was £185,000. Some redecoration was necessary as a consequence of the structural and other remedial work but it is not possible to separate out those costs as the redecoration was an integral part of much wider projects.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many requests under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department received from *(a)* hon. Members from each political party and *(b)* members of the public in each year since the Act's entry into force. [63590]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not record Freedom of Information Act requests in the format requested. It does, however, record how many requests were received in total, which is given in the following table. Data on requests before 2002-03, and for 2005-06 and 2006-07, are not held centrally and could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

	Number
2002-03	11
2003-04	6
2004-05	2
2007-08	46
2008-09	56
2009-10	70
2010-11	118

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Direct Selling

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment he has made of the availability of measures which would bar cold calls to telephones on the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate. [63894]

John Thurso: Parliamentary ICT has investigated the options for reducing unsolicited sales and marketing telephone calls to lines on the Parliamentary Estate via the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) and Corporate Telephone Preference Service (CTPS) and registers Members' telephone numbers with the TPS upon request. This helps to reduce cold calls to these numbers by companies either based in the UK or acting on behalf of companies based in the UK.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what regulations his Department introduced between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011; and what the estimated costs of implementation for those affected were in each case. [60333]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office introduced no regulations between 1 March 2011 and 31 May 2011 but it introduced the following Orders in Council:

The Tunisia (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011;

The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Partnership and Cooperation Agreement) (Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011;

The European Union (Definition of Treaties) (Stabilisation and Association Agreement) (Republic of Serbia) Order 2011;

The Libya (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2011;

The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011;

The Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Act (Dissolution) Order 2011;

The Consular Fees Order 2011.

The estimated cost of implementation for those affected was minimal. The Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Act (Dissolution) Order 2011 dissolved a charity, but the first five Orders were considered to have no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies and a negligible impact on the public sector. These five Orders are all related to implementing international obligations of the United Kingdom. The Consular Fees Order 2011 amends the fees set by the Consular Fees Order 2010 (as amended). The detail of these changes was set out in a written ministerial statement on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, columns 50-51WS.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the name is of each regulatory measure revoked by his Department between 1 March and 31 May 2011; and what estimate he has made of the potential annual saving to those affected by each revocation. [60493]

Mr Bellingham: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not been responsible for the revocation of any regulatory measures between 1 March and 31 May 2011 but it revoked the following Orders in Council between 1 March and 31 May 2011:

The Child Abduction and Custody (Parties to Conventions) (Amendment) Order 2011;

The Consular Fees Order 2010 and Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2010.

The estimated potential annual saving resulting from the revocation of the Child Abduction and Custody (Parties to Conventions) (Amendment) Order 2011 is negligible because the Order was to do with substituting a schedule of States Parties to The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction 1980 in the Child Abduction and Custody (Parties to Conventions) Order 1986. The revocation of the Consular Fees Order 2010 and the Consular Fees (Amendment) Order 2010 will make minimal annual savings because the fees set out in these Orders have in general been replaced by the fees set out in the Consular Fees 2011 Order which envisaged no impact on the private or voluntary sectors. The changes to fees are set out in the Explanatory Note to the Consular Fees Order 2011.

Mongolia: EU External Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on ratification of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement between Mongolia and the EU; and if he will make a statement. [63467]

Alistair Burt: The Government are supportive of the provisions in the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement (PCA) which has been concluded between the European Union and its member states, and Mongolia. However, the PCA has not yet been signed by the European Union or Mongolia. Ratification of the PCA can only take place in the UK (and other EU member states) once the agreement is signed by the EU and Mongolia. Signature by the EU can only take place once the European Council Decision on signing the agreement is agreed by all 27 member states.

National Security Council

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the remit is of the Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the National Security Council. [63607]

Mr Hague: The Emerging Powers Sub-Committee of the National Security Council considers matters relating to the UK's relationship with emerging international powers.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to determine his policy on whether to support UN recognition of a Palestinian state; and whether he plans to make an oral statement before the summer adjournment. [64588]

Alistair Burt: The unprecedented changes of the Arab Spring make progress on the peace process more urgent than ever. President Obama has called for the parties to return to the table for negotiations based on 1967 borders with agreed swaps and security arrangements that protect Israel and respect Palestinian sovereignty. The UK backs this call.

We urge all parties to seize this moment of opportunity and return as soon as possible to direct negotiations. As I told all sides during my visit to the region on 27 June to 1 July, we do not even know if there will be a resolution in September, or what it will look like—so we have not made any decisions. Instead we urge both sides to look towards the things that are necessary to get a negotiated settlement and to return to talks as soon as possible.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation: Offenders

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her response is to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Sufi and Elmi vs the United Kingdom; and whether she plans to appeal. [63852]

Damian Green: The European Court of Human rights handed down judgment on 28 June 2011 in the case of Sufi and Elmi *v.* The United Kingdom (Applications nos. 8319/07 and 11449/07) which concerned safety of returning failed asylum seekers to Somalia.

We are disappointed with the European Court's decision and are considering our legal position.

This judgment does not mean that all Somalis are in need of international protection. We will continue to pursue the removal of those with no right to be in the UK, including the removal of Somali criminals who have committed a serious crime.

Entry Clearances: English Language

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry clearance applications were rejected as a result of the applicant having taken an English language test through a provider not approved by her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [64399]

Damian Green: A breakdown of the number of rejections based on non-approved test providers is not available. Only the total number of rejections is available. Between November 2010 and May 2011 there have been 113 'Refusals—English language Requirement Not Met' events recorded on the Proviso case working system.

These data are based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Helicopters: City of Westminster

Sir Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who owns the helicopter which hovered above Westminster on 30 June 2011; what authorisation was given for the flight; what the average noise level was at street level; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* expected benefits were of the flight. [63925]

Mrs Villiers: I have been asked to reply.

At least four helicopters—two Metropolitan Police Service helicopters and two providing outside broadcast facilities—were monitoring a demonstration in Westminster on 30 June. It is therefore difficult to ascertain the specific helicopter referred to.

The noise level of helicopters at street level is not monitored. However, helicopter pilots are encouraged to minimise noise disturbance by maintaining the maximum altitude possible consistent with their air traffic control clearance, or their specific operational requirements, and the prevailing weather conditions.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what persons and organisations are entitled to refer cases to the National Referral Mechanism for assessment of whether a person has been trafficked. [63381]

Damian Green: A formal referral into the National Referral Mechanism is made by a designated "first responder". The following organisations are designated first responders:

Local authorities
Police
UK Border Agency
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
Eaves Housing for Women POPPY project
TARA project
Migrant Help
Kalayaan
Gangmasters Licensing Agency
Medaille Trust
Salvation Army
Barnardos
NSPCC

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will announce the Government's policy on human trafficking prior to the summer adjournment. [64321]

Damian Green: The Government intend to publish its strategy on human trafficking prior to the summer recess.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* shortest, *(b)* longest and *(c)* average length of time was taken to reach (i) a reasonable grounds decision and (ii) a conclusive decision on a referral to the National Referral Mechanism of a person claiming to be trafficked in the most recently available six month period. [63382]

Damian Green: For cases referred between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010 the shortest time taken to reach a reasonable grounds decision was one working day and the longest time was 119 working days. The median length of time taken to reach a reasonable grounds decision was nine working days for cases referred and concluded between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010.

For cases where a recovery and reflection period commenced between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010 the shortest time taken to reach a conclusive decision was one calendar day and the longest time was 141 calendar days. The median length of time taken to reach a conclusive decision was 63 calendar days for cases where a recovery and reflection period commenced and was concluded between 1 July 2010 and 31 December 2010.

The time taken for National Referral Mechanism decisions depend on a variety of factors including the timeframe for the potential victim to be able to talk about their experience and the amount of evidence that is available at the point the case is referred by the first responder.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the disclosure to a criminal defence of information acquired as a result of the policing of protests involving criminal activity by the National Public Order Intelligence Unit. [64413]

Mr Blunt: I have been asked to reply.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on individual cases. The Government's policy on disclosure in criminal proceedings is that investigators, prosecutors and defendants should adhere rigorously to the requirements of the disclosure laws (notably the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, as amended, and its accompanying codes of practice), upon which fair and efficient trials are founded. In January 2011, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) announced that it would carry out a review of the work conducted by the National Domestic Extremism Units. The Independent Police Complaints Commission ('IPCC') is carrying-out a separate independent investigation into disclosure issues around a number of specific cases. The Director of Public Prosecutions has also commissioned a separate independent review of the CPS decisions on a specific case. The Government will consider very carefully any recommendations which may emerge from these reviews for changes to the disclosure laws.

Foreign Nationals: Prisoners

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 919-22W, on foreign nationals: prisoners, how many foreign national prisoners immediately returned to their country of origin after being released from custody after serving sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences and *(c)* violence against the person in the latest period for which figures are available; [61749]

(2) how many foreign national offenders released from custody after serving sentences for *(a)* rape, *(b)* other sexual offences and *(c)* violence against the person offences (i) remain resident in the UK and (ii) have unknown residential status. [61751]

Damian Green: In order to answer these questions the UK Border Agency would need to cross reference individual records with the National Offender Management Service. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North, ref: C1166155. [64342]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency confirms that a response was issued to the hon. Member on 29 June 2011.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason a national policy statement for aviation has not been produced. [64214]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have made clear their position on additional runways at London's three major airports and that their priority is therefore to create a sustainable framework for UK aviation, rather than produce a national policy statement for airports. This was set out in 'Major infrastructure planning reform: Work plan', published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in December 2010.

The Government issued a scoping document in March 2011 to inform the development of a sustainable framework for UK aviation which will be published for consultation in March 2012.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what near-miss incidents involving *(a)* commercial and *(b)* private aircraft and UK nuclear installations have been reported to his Department in each year since May 2004; and if he will place copies of the report on each incident in the Library. [64469]

Mrs Villiers: The Air Accident Investigation Branch has not been notified of any near-miss incidents involving either commercial or private aircraft and UK nuclear installations since May 2004.

Biggin Hill Airport: Olympic Games 2012

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the effects of a time-limited waiver to the terms of Biggin Hill airport's lease with Bromley council allowing extended hours and additional flights during the period of the London 2012 Olympics. [63303]

Mrs Villiers: This would be a matter for the local authority to consider.

Cycling: Accidents

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists have been killed in road traffic accidents on *(a)* dual carriageways for which the Highways Agency is responsible and *(b)* other roads in each of the last five years. [64573]

Mike Penning: The number of pedal cyclists killed in reported personal injury road accidents on *(a)* dual carriageways of the 2004 Highways Agency core network and *(b)* other roads in England between 2005 and 2009 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Pedal cyclists killed in reported personal injury road accidents by road type, England: 2005-09

	(a) Highways Agency dual carriageways[1]	*(b) Other roads in England*[2]	*Total in England*
2005	7	123	130
2006	6	121	127
2007	3	126	129
2008	6	96	102
2009	8	85	93

[1] Based on the 2004 Highways Agency core network. [2] Includes fatalities on other, non-dual carriageway, Highways Agency roads.

The Highways Agency 2004 core network is an estimate of what the 2006 network was expected to be as a result of the ongoing 10-year programme of "detrunking" which concluded in March 2009. This saw about 30% of the trunk road network (as at April 1999) transfer from Highway Agency control to local highways authority control.

As this programme was in progress during the years covered by Table 1, the table may misclassify some pedal cyclist fatalities that occurred on roads where the control has changed. The overall figures for England remain correct.

In 2010, there were 102 pedal cyclists killed in reported personal injury road accidents in England. The breakdown of these reported fatalities between Highways Agency dual carriageways and other roads is not yet available.

Departmental Allowances

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenses were claimed by *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid special advisers working in his Department in the last 12 months. [62075]

Norman Baker: Over the last 12 months, special advisers at the Department for Transport have incurred expenses of £568 for train fares, £85 hotel accommodation costs and £36 for a single use of the Government Car and Despatch Agency's low carbon taxi-style service known as the green car service. All of these items were centrally booked and no expenses were directly claimed by or reimbursed to the special advisers.

The total incurred cost of £689 in the last 12 months compares to £9,515 incurred in centrally booked expenses plus £1,958 claimed in reimbursable expenses by Special advisers at the DFT in 2009-10.

There are no unpaid special advisers working at the Department for Transport.

Driving Tests

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving test appointments at the Northwich Driving Test Centre have been cancelled in the last 12 months at the request of the Driving Standards Agency or by staff at the centre; and how many of those cancellations have been due to the centre having insufficient examiners to fulfil all the booked appointments. [64454]

Mike Penning: In the 12 months to 30 June 2011, the Driving Standards Agency has cancelled 389 practical driving tests at Northwich Driving Test Centre, of which 350 were due to driving examiners being unavailable.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department and its predecessor received about noise pollution related to Heathrow airport in each of the last 10 years. [64367]

Mrs Villiers: While the Department for Transport receives correspondence from MPs and the public on noise issues at Heathrow, including complaints, we do not hold records on the numbers of correspondence over the last 10 years.

Humber Bridge Board

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what provisions of primary and secondary legislation determine the composition of the Humber Bridge Board; what the procedures are to alter the composition of the board; and whether the board has the power to amend its own composition; [62739]

(2) what changes have been made to the composition of the Humber Bridge Board since 1981; and what instruments were used to bring about those changes. [62751]

Norman Baker: I have been informed by the Humber Bridge Board that section 6 of the Humber Bridge Act 1959 set out the original membership of the board being 21 members:

12 to be appointed by the corporation (being the Lord Mayor and aldermen of the city of Hull)

1 to be appointed by East Riding council

1 to be appointed by Lindsey council

1 to be appointed by the Scunthorpe corporation

3 to be appointed by the Haltemprice urban district council

3 be appointed by Barton-upon Humber urban district council.

Section 6 of the 1959 Act was amended by the Local Government Changes for England (Miscellaneous Provision) Order 1996, (SI 1996/466) which states, at paragraph 3, that the board shall consist of 22 members to be appointed as follows:

12 members to be appointed by the district council of Kingston upon Hull

1 member to be appointed by the county council of Lincolnshire

4 members to be appointed by the district council of the East Riding of Yorkshire

5 members to be appointed by the district council of North Lincolnshire

The Bridge Board does not have the power to amend its own composition; but under section 97 of the 1959 Act, the board may apply to the Secretary of State to make an order altering the composition.

Large Goods Vehicles

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to review its policy on service areas and other roadside facilities to reflect the conclusions of the Lorry Parking Baseline Report and the Strategy for Lorry Parking Provision in England. [64574]

Mike Penning: My written ministerial statement of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, columns 17-20WS, announced a new policy of allowing dedicated truck stops on motorways.

In addition I am considering a number of other options for improving the quality and provision of lorry parking facilities in England and expect to make a further statement in due course.

National Planning Policy Framework

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he gave to the inclusion of plug-in vehicle infrastructure in the National Planning Policy Framework. [64371]

Robert Neill: I have been asked to reply.

Consideration has been given to a wide range of issues, including plug-in vehicle infrastructure, as part of the Government's preparation for the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. The consultation is to be launched shortly.

I also refer my hon. Friend to my Department's press notice of 3 January 2011 on the steps we are taking to allow electric car charging points to be built on streets and in outdoor car parks without the need for planning permission.

Ports: Liverpool

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to *(a)* undertake an impact assessment and *(b)* assess the potential effect on employment prior to making a decision on whether the City of Liverpool Cruise Terminal can be used for turnaround calls. [64595]

Mike Penning: I announced today a consultation by my Department on a proposal to remove our objection to lifting a grant condition which precludes the use of the City Cruise Terminal for turnaround calls, in return for a partial repayment of grant. This proposal reflects my broad provisional assessment of the balance of economic benefits to the Liverpool City Region and the impact on fair competition with terminals elsewhere. The consultation provides an opportunity for respondents to express views on the economic, employment, tourism and other impacts of this proposed measure.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords: Reform

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister for what reasons he considers that a referendum on reform of the House of Lords is not necessary; and if he will make a statement. [64346]

Mr Harper: At the last election, all three main political parties were committed to reform of the House of Lords and the Government believe that we should move forward on this issue.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission gives to parents living in the UK in respect of outstanding maintenance payments owed by absent parents resident in the Irish Republic. [64596]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Noel Shanahan:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assistance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission gives to parents living in the UK in respect of outstanding maintenance payments owed by absent parents resident in the Irish Republic. [64596]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (the Commission) has jurisdiction to make a maintenance calculation and collect child support maintenance only when the parent with care, the non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the UK. Habitual residence is a legal concept which means more than simply 'where you live'. A person can habitually reside in more than one country or in none. Habitual residence can continue during an absence from UK.

The Commission retains the power to pursue a non-resident parent who moves overseas, including those that live in the Irish Republic, for ongoing maintenance payments, but only where the non-resident is regarded as being habitually resident in the UK. The criteria for establishing jurisdiction when a non-resident parent leaves the United Kingdom is described at Section 44 of the Child Support Act 1991. There is no distinction made between an EU state and a non-EU state.

If the non-resident parent ceases to be habitually resident, the Commission can no longer seek ongoing maintenance. We can only enforce child maintenance arrears directly if the non-resident parent holds assets within the UK, such as savings or property, which would fall within the jurisdiction of the UK courts. Since 3 August 2009, the Commission has had the power to make deductions from current or savings accounts held within the UK without the consent of the non-resident parent.

The Commission may take action to prevent the non-resident parent disposing of his assets, from which the Commission could recover the arrears. The Commission may apply to the High Court (England and Wales) or the Court of Session (Scotland) if a non-resident parent has arrears of child support; and have disposed of, or is about to dispose of, assets with the intention of avoiding child support.

From 18 June 2011, the Commission will have some ability under the new European legislation EC EU 04/2009 to enforce certain arrears of maintenance that accrued while both parents were resident in the UK where the non-resident parent now resides in another jurisdiction within the European Union (except Denmark). It can also assist parents with care in the process of obtaining a court order for ongoing maintenance which can then be enforced via an application to the Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders (REMO) unit at the Office of the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee. The new European legislation also allows the Commission to make enquiries about assets a non-resident parent may own in another E.U member state (except Denmark) for the purposes of enforcing child maintenance arrears owed in the UK.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Education: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged between 16 and 64 in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. [63887]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged between 16 and 64 in Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency were not in education, employment or training in the latest period for which figures are available. (63887)

Based on the Annual Population Survey (APS), for the period January 2010 to December 2010, 13,000 people aged 16 to 64 resident in the Bexleyheath and Crayford Constituency were not in education, employment or training.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and JSA count are available on the Nomis website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Social Fund

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department takes to monitor and assess the extent to which money paid to claimants from the Social Fund is used for the purposes set out in their applications. [64326]

Steve Webb: The Social Fund consists of a regulated and a discretionary scheme. Funeral Payments, Sure Start Maternity Grants, Cold Weather Payments and Winter Fuel Payments are part of the regulatory Social Fund scheme. Community Care Grants, Crisis and Budgeting Loans are part of the discretionary Social Fund scheme.

The Social Fund does not routinely monitor or assess the extent to which money paid to claimants is used for the purposes set out in their applications because the high volume of payments made for the scheme, especially in relation to cold weather and winter fuel payments, make the cost of monitoring and assessing what payments are spent on prohibitive.

In relation to the Community Care Grant scheme, however, targeted pre-award visits based upon set risk criteria are made to confirm claimants needs prior to an award being made. In addition repeat applications will not be successful if they are made for the same need within 12 months of an earlier application.

For Crisis and Budgeting Loans, applications will only be successful if the applicant is facing a disaster or an emergency and the health and safety of the applicant or their family is at risk; or they require money for a one off expense not covered by benefits. Any award made is fully recoverable.

Social Security Benefits: Newcastle

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people his Department's modelling has indicated will be made homeless in Newcastle as a result of the total benefit cap. [64570]

Chris Grayling: The benefit cap will mean that people on benefit will face choices about housing costs similar to those faced by people in work. But it will not necessarily mean that they will need to move from their home. Even within the limits of this cap, households will still be able to receive significant amounts of financial assistance from state welfare payments and if a member of the household moves into work and becomes eligible for working tax credit they will be exempt from the impacts of the cap.

There is a range of help local authorities can offer to households who are struggling to meet their rent, including the provision of discretionary housing payments. We have already made an additional £190 million available over the spending review period for this purpose as a result of the changes we have made to housing benefit.

The Government's estimate of the number of people who will be presenting as homeless as a result of the overall benefit cap is as contained in the Department's Impact Assessment. The information requested is available only at Great Britain level. The Impact Assessment can be found via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what additional net cost his Department's modelling has indicated will be placed on Newcastle Council as a result of the total benefit cap. [64571]

Chris Grayling: The Government's estimate of the costs of the overall benefit cap is as contained in the Department's Impact Assessment. The information requested is available only at Great Britain level. The Impact Assessment can be found via the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/household-benefit-cap-wr2011-ia.pdf

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason pensioners who retire to live abroad in some countries have their pensions up rated in line with inflation whereas those retiring to certain other countries do not; and if he will make a statement. [64572]

Steve Webb: The UK state pension is payable world wide but is only up-rated abroad where there is a legal requirement or reciprocal agreement to do so. A well known court case challenging the UK's position was heard by the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber in September 2009 and the Court's judgment of March 2010 was in the UK's favour. We continue to take our obligations under the terms of the European Convention on Human Rights seriously and are satisfied that we are complying. We therefore have no plans to make any changes to the current arrangements that allow for the exportability and up rating of UK state pensions.

Universal Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all new applications for in-work and out-of-work benefits will be treated as applications for universal credit from October 2013. [64401]

Chris Grayling: Our provisional timetable states that from October 2013 all new applications for out-of-work support will be treated as claims to universal credit. No new jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, income support and housing benefit claims will be accepted. New claims for tax credits will continue to be accepted until April 2014. Detailed planning is still at an early stage, and the timetable and sequence for transition may change as a result.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business Performance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment for benchmarking purposes of the performance of UK firms in adopting *(a)* business best practice and *(b)* workplace changes in comparison with other OECD countries. [61115]

Mr Willetts: The DTI Economics Paper number 7, "Competing in the Global Economy—The Innovation Challenge", found that UK Innovation performance as a whole is around the average of other advanced economies, but that UK businesses as a group appearing to be less creative and less able to introduce workplace changes and, in some areas, the UK lags in the adoption of best business practices.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not plan to make an assessment for benchmarking purposes. Since the above paper was published, the evidence base in these areas has strengthened considerably, with regular, consistent and comparable data being published, including an improved and extended Community Innovation Survey (CIS). As such, it is not considered necessary to undertake a specific assessment as regularly updated data on workplace innovation are readily available.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students on *(a)* taught masters' courses, *(b)* other masters' courses, *(c)* PhD studies and *(d)* other doctoral studies received funding for their studies in each of the last three years; for how many he expects to provide funding in each case in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [64051]

Mr Willetts: The most recent Higher Education Statistics Agency data (HESA) relates to 2009/10. Data on Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) fundable students for the latest three available years and split by the following categories 'PhD/Doctorate', Taught Masters' and 'Other Masters' are provided in the following table. We are not able to provide the figures broken down into the exact categories asked for. The figures relate to HEFCE fundable students only, on all years of study. Additional places will be funded by other Government Departments, charities and research bodies.

HEFCE fundable

			Headcount
	2007	*2008*	*2009*
PhD/ Doctorate	43,000	43,000	46,000
Taught Masters	163,000	154,000	170,000
Other Masters	9,000	9,000	10,000

Source:
2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 HESA student data

We do not have estimates of the likely number of students on these courses over the spending review period. HEFCE fundable places are expected to remain broadly constant over the spending review period.

We have accepted the recommendations of Professor Sir Adrian Smith's review of postgraduate education. In our White Paper Higher Education: Students at the Heart of the System (Cm 8122) we have asked HEFCE to review the impact of undergraduate funding changes on post graduate participation to help inform thinking on the longer term future of postgraduate funding.

Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which of the proposals in the Higher Education White Paper will require *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* secondary legislation to implement; and if he will make a statement. [63600]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 4 July 2011]:* The Regulatory Framework for Higher Education is currently set out in the Education Reform Act 1988, the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, and the Higher Education Act 2004. Any changes to the regulatory framework, including changes to the role and function of HEFCE and OFFA, as defined by these acts is likely to require primary legislation and secondary legislation. Over the summer we will consult on a new regulatory framework, which will set out clear and demanding conditions for an organisation to be recognised as a provider of higher education in England. As part of this consultation we will consider changes to the process and criteria for obtaining university title and taught degree-awarding powers. We are currently consulting on the potential introduction of an early repayment mechanism for student loans. Depending on the outcome of this consultation we may need to introduce primary and/or secondary legislation.

Imports: Israel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what country code is used to record imports from Israeli settlements on the UK Trade database. [62330]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

For imports from Israeli settlements located beyond Israel's borders as established in 1967 the country code used should be PS.

Students: Public Expenditure

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* funded, *(b)* off-quota and *(c)* private student places for (i) full-time students and (ii) part-time students there were in each of the last three years; how many such places he expects there to be in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [64049]

Mr Willetts: The most recent Higher Education Statistics Agency data (HESA) relates to 2009/10. Data on Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) fundable students for the latest three available years is provided in the following table. These figures relate to HEFCE fundable students only, on all years of study. Additional places will be funded by Government Departments, charities and research bodies. The drop in

fundable part-time students in 2008 is due to the removal of HEFCE funding for students studying for a qualification equal or lower than one they already hold.

HEFCE fundable	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Full-time	925,000	942,000	997,000
Part-time (headcount)	584,000	489,000	495,000

Information on the number of students at private HE providers is not collected centrally. HESA collects information on only one private provider (the university of Buckingham), however it recently published the results of a survey of private and for-profit providers of higher education covering the 2009/10 academic year, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/
index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2086&Itemid=310

Data relating to closed (off quota) courses are shown in the following table. In addition to students attending closed courses, all non-EU students are outside student number controls.

Closed courses	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Full-time	1,745	1,816	1,612
Part-time (head count)	5,412	4,094	4,369

Source:
2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 HESA student data

We do not have estimates of the likely number of students on private and off-quota courses over the spending review period. HEFCE fundable places are expected to remain broadly constant over the spending review period.

EDUCATION

Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Children

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on implementation of the recommendations of the report of the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood, Letting Children be Children; and if he will make a statement. [63117]

Sarah Teather: Reg Bailey published the report of his independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, 'Letting Children be Children', on 6 June. In their response, made to Parliament as a written ministerial statement on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 8WS, the Government made clear that they accepted and welcomed Mr Bailey's analysis and the thrust of all the recommendations he has made, which will reduce the pressure on children to grow up too fast. The Government's policy on implementation of these recommendations was also set out in the written ministerial statement.

Most of the recommendations of Mr Bailey's report are made to businesses, industry associations and the regulators. It is a matter for those organisations to decide how best to achieve the intended outcomes for each of the recommendations, although the Government look to them to see that these recommendations are implemented as fully as possible.

Mr Bailey has also recommended that the Government should consider strengthening the controls on music videos. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will respond to this recommendation by consulting on the operation of the Video Recordings Act 1984 and 2010. The consultation will look at a range of options including consideration of whether it would be appropriate for the exemption that music videos enjoy from this legislation to be removed, and call for evidence in support of the costs and benefits of such a change.

Mr Bailey has placed the responsibility for action on businesses themselves and, if necessary, their regulators. The Government will actively monitor implementation of the recommendations, leading up to a full stock-take of progress in 18 months' time. At this point, we will consider what further measures may need to be taken to achieve the recommended outcomes, including considering statutory regulation if voluntary action has not been effective.

I have already held a meeting on 27 June with representatives of many of the major businesses and regulators concerned to discuss how they propose to take action to implement the recommendations of the Bailey review. The Prime Minister has also announced that he will hold a similar meeting in October to review progress.

Extracurricular Activities: Finance

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what financial support his Department provides for groups run for children aged between five and nine years. [61746]

Sarah Teather: The following financial support is provided by the Department for Education for groups run for children between five and nine years:

Children's University has been provided a grant of £700,000 over two years (2011-13) to enable it to continue developing and extending high quality provision outside the school day for five to 14-year-old children in England.

ContinYou has been granted around £800,000 over two years (2011-13) to support before and after school settings, including schools and voluntary and community sector providers, to increase the range of high quality extra curricular and learning opportunities for school age children, including five to nine-year-olds.

Funding of £356.5 million (in 2011-12) previously provided through the Standards Fund to local authorities by the Department for Education to support provision of extended services (including after-school activities) now forms part of schools' main budget. We are giving schools freedom and flexibility across all their budgets as they know best how to support their pupils. Schools will be able to continue offering extended services where they wish to do so.

Further Education: Admissions

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the potential effect on rates of participation in post-16 education of the abolition of education maintenance allowance and the reduction in the number of local authorities which subsidise transport for 16 to 19-year-olds. [61407]

Mr Gibb: The £180 million 16-19 bursary funding introduced from September 2011 will enable schools, colleges and training providers to support students facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. In

contrast to current discretionary learner support funds, the 16-19 bursary fund will have the flexibility to help meet transport costs for individual students, where those costs have been identified as a real barrier to that student's participation.

This sits alongside the duty on local authorities to publish a statement each year that sets out the travel arrangements they consider necessary to enable young people of sixth form age to attend post-16 education. Decisions regarding the extent of such arrangements, including the provision of any financial assistance, are for local authorities to make following appropriate consultation.

Taken together, these arrangements allow schools, colleges and local authorities to target support in ways that best meet the individual needs and circumstances of young people, and to ensure that young people are not prevented from participating in post-16 education or training because of their financial circumstances.

Outdoor Education

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge scheme; and if he will make a statement. [63993]

Mr Gibb: The Government support educational activities outside the classroom. We have simplified health and safety requirements covering activities that take place on or off school premises, including school trips, so that it is easier for schools to engage their pupils in activities outside the classroom.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge Scheme, which is managed by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, is an award which recognises the quality of provision as well as effective risk management. The Department has made no recent assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's Quality Badge Scheme.

Schools: Libraries

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will estimate the number of school librarians that will be made redundant in Rochdale constituency in the next academic year; [63439]

(2) if he will estimate the number of school libraries that will be closed in Rochdale constituency during the next academic year. [63440]

Mr Gibb: A good school library is a very valuable resource for pupils and teachers.

The Department has made no estimate of future changes in the number of school libraries or of changes in the number of school library staff either at national, or at local level, in the next academic year. However, through the School Workforce Survey the Department collects data on the number of librarians in maintained schools in England and on the number of schools with librarians. The 2010 census reported a headcount number of five librarians employed in publicly funded schools in Rochdale constituency in four schools, one primary and three secondary. One of the secondary schools employed two librarians.

Schools: Standards

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in *(a)* Worcestershire and *(b)* Redditch have received an outstanding result from Ofsted in the last three years. [63239]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 29 June 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Table A below shows the number of maintained schools judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during the academic years 2007/08 to 2009/10 inclusive in Worcestershire local authority and Redditch constituency. Equivalent data have also been provided for England for context, and the table shows the total number of inspections in each of these areas in each year.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment as an aid to scheduling the inspection of good and outstanding schools. We deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools each year and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. The sample of schools inspected is therefore skewed and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the very different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Maintained-schools/Inspection-outcomes

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11 were released on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

Table A: Schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection in (a) England (b) Worcestershire local authority (c) Redditch constituency in each of the last three years

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Number of schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness, and as a percentage of total number of inspections in the area			
England	1,146 (15%)	1,327 (19%)	782 (13%)
Worcestershire local authority[1]	3	12	6
Redditch constituency	0	1	1
Total number of inspections in academic year			
England	7,866	7,065	6,171
Worcestershire local authority	77	101	62
Redditch constituency	14	9	12

[1] Where numbers are small, percentages are not displayed.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools were assessed as outstanding by Ofsted in Hastings and Rye constituency in each of the last five years. [64073]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for Ofsted. John Goldup, National Director, Development and Strategy has written to my hon. Friend, on behalf of HM Chief Inspector. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from John Goldup, dated 4 July 2011:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for response. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector is currently on leave, and I am replying on her behalf.

Since 2005, maintained school inspections have been carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. Ofsted records all judgements made by inspectors in section 5 inspections, including the judgement for overall effectiveness of the school.

Maintained schools inspected under section 5 include nursery, primary, secondary (including academies and city technology colleges), special schools and pupil referral units.

Table A as follows shows the number of maintained schools judged to be outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection during the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 inclusive in Hastings and Rye constituency. Equivalent data have also been provided for England for context, and the table shows the total number of inspections in each of these areas in each year.

In September 2009, Ofsted implemented a policy of more proportionate inspection using risk assessment and deliberately set out to inspect a greater proportion of previously satisfactory or inadequate schools each year and a smaller proportion of previously good or outstanding schools. This led to a skew in the sample of schools inspected and means that comparisons between years should be treated with caution as some differences are due to the different sample of schools inspected during the different periods.

Statistics covering the outcomes of all inspections carried out in each academic year since 2005/06 can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Maintained-schools/Inspection-outcomes

The most recent official statistics release covering the outcomes of maintained school inspections carried out during the autumn and spring terms 2010/11 were released on 15 June 2011 and can be accessed at the same link.

Table A: Schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness at their section 5 inspection in England and Hastings and Rye constituency in each of the last five years

	Number of schools judged outstanding for overall effectiveness, and as a percentage of total number of inspections in the area				
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
England					
Number	648	1,150	1,146	1,327	782
Percentage	11	14	15	19	13
Hastings and Rye constituency[1]	0	1	0	0	1

	Total number of inspections in academic year				
	2005/06	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
England	6,128	8,323	7,866	7,065	6,171
Hastings and Rye constituency	7	17	8	10	13

[1] Where numbers are small, percentages are not displayed.

Schools: Vocational Guidance

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 762W, on schools: careers guidance, when he expects to reach a decision on the timing of the review of careers guidance. [64134]

Mr Gibb: A thematic review of young people's careers guidance will be helpful in establishing a baseline for future policy development once the new arrangements for careers guidance are implemented. Subject to the passage of the Education Bill, schools will be under a duty to secure access to independent, impartial careers guidance for their pupils from September 2012. We would not expect a thematic review to take place before that date.

Sexual Offences: Education

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on including domestic and sexual violence and abuse issues in the curriculum. [64093]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has received a number of representations regarding the inclusion of domestic, sexual violence, and abuse issues in the curriculum. Many of these representations have been part of the campaign on the role of schools in preventing violence against women and girls, co-ordinated by the "end violence against women and girls" coalition.

We believe high quality personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education plays an important part in helping young people develop the skills to manage risk and the negative aspects of some relationships, including use of violence and other forms of abuse. As set out in the Schools White Paper 2010 the Department will undertake a review of PSHE to improve the quality of PSHE teaching.

Special Educational Needs

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each school, other than special schools, in which the proportion of pupils with special educational needs is over 50 per cent. [63987]

Sarah Teather: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Teachers: Training

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to require publicly-funded schools to host student teachers; and if he will make a statement. [63915]

Mr Gibb: We have no plans to require publicly-funded schools to host student teachers. On 27 June we published "Training our next generation of outstanding teachers" in which we set out our proposals for the reform of initial teacher training, including proposals to increase school involvement in initial teacher training.

JUSTICE

Animal Welfare

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many convictions there have been for offences under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which involved horses since the Act was brought into force; [64354]

(2) how many convictions of animal owners there have been for offences under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in each year since 2006; [64355]

(3) how many convictions there have been for offences under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in each year since 2006. [64356]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in England and Wales, from 2007 (when the Act commenced) to 2010 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Information held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database does not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is not possible to separately identify those proceedings where the defendant was the animal's owner or the type of animal against which an offence was committed.

Defendants found guilty at all courts under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006[1], England and Wales, 2007-10[2, 3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2007*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2010*
Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 4	Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering	22	635	902	856

[1] Animal and Welfare Act 2006 came into force in April 2007.
[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.
Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Courts: Closures

Julie Elliott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* Crown courts he plans to close in the North East. [65070]

Mr Djanogly: A schedule of proposed dates for court closures and information on the transfer of work can be found on the HM Courts and Tribunals Service website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmcts/courts.htm

This follows the public consultation that took place in the summer of 2010 regarding closures of magistrates and county courts and the decisions that were announced on 14 December 2010. No Crown courts were included in that consultation.

Prisoners' Discharge Grants: Females

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was provided as a discharge grant to women who had been in mother and baby units with their infants within prisons in the latest period in which figures are available. [64497]

Mr Blunt: All eligible sentenced prisoners, including women accommodated in mother and baby units, receive a discharge grant of £46 upon release.

Prisons: Manpower

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the recommended staffing levels are for *(a)* HM Prison and Young Offender Institution Glen Parva, *(b)* Wetherby Young Offender Institution, *(c)* New Hall Young Offender Institution, *(d)* Stoke Heath Young Offender Institution, *(e)* HM Prison Bedford and *(f)* Aylesbury Young Offender Institution; and what the average staffing level at each institution has been in the last 12 months; [64253]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued on recommended staffing levels in young offender institutions; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any such guidance. [64255]

Mr Blunt: Information on the recommended staffing levels and the average staffing level for each of the establishments listed within the question is provided in the following table.

Staffing requirement and average staff in post—as at 31 March 2011

		Full-time equivalent
	Staffing requirement[1]	*Average staff in post[2]*
Aylesbury	310.4	268.6
Bedford	263.0	243.0
Glen Parva	482.2	437.2
New Hall	367.3	359.6
Stoke Heath	431.5	419.0
Wetherby	413.1	386.1

[1] As at 31 March 2011.
[2] April 2010 to March 2011.
Source: Monthly Staffing Returns and Oracle HRMS.

Recommended staffing levels have been taken from the monthly staffing requirement forms submitted by each establishment. This figure reflects the total number of funded posts within the establishment. Average staff in post figures are for the 12 months to 31 March 2011. All figures are provided on a full-time equivalent basis.

There is no guidance for the recommended staffing levels within young offender institutions. Staffing requirements are set against the level of planned activity within each establishment. In their regime planning, young offender institutions are expected to deliver a higher level of regime than in an adult establishment, particularly in respect of PE, learning and skills and other activities. The Youth Justice Board specifies staffing levels for individual institutions that are operated by NOMS on their behalf.

Young Offenders: Health Professions

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what requirements there are for medical staff to be present at *(a)* young offenders institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes. [64252]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Commissioning responsibility for health services provided in the publicly run young offender institutions (YOIs) rests with NHS primary care trusts (PCTs). These services are subject to the same standards, regulation and governance as are applied in the wider NHS. Each PCT should decide which health care treatments and services to provide for its local population based on a full needs assessment, and commission these from NHS or independent sector providers. PCTs also decide on spending levels for specific health care treatments and services provided in all primary care settings, including staffing levels. The Department of Health (DH) does not ring-fence PCT money, and is not prescriptive about how individual PCTs spend their budgets.

In both the publicly run YOIs and in private YOIs, all young people are screened within 24 hours of arrival for any immediate needs including health care needs. Health services in all YOIs must comply with Prison Service Orders/Prison Service Instructions and any relevant DH and NHS guidelines.

24-hour health care is provided at private YOIs. Health services must also be of an equivalent standard to those available in the community. There are full-time medical staff on site to provide regular assessment and health care and in addition there are visiting doctors, dentists and specialists. Any young person involved in an incident or a restraint will be seen immediately by a nurse.

Young people will also be taken outside to local NHS services where required for emergency or specialist treatment.

(b) Medical and nursing care is available every day on a 24-hour basis within Secure Training Centres (STCs). Contractual provisions require that a qualified nurse must be on site at each STC during the day and early evening and on call at all other times; and that a young person who requests to see a health care worker will be seen by a qualified nurse or medical practitioner within 30 minutes of making his/her request. Any young person involved in an accident or emergency will receive immediate medical attention. Young people are also entitled to a basic monthly medical examination and/or health assessment by health care staff at the STC and have access to NHS facilities and specialists when clinically required.

(c) Secure Children's Homes (SCH) are regulated by The Children's Homes Regulations 2001 which are made under the Care Standards Act 2000. Under Regulation 20, each child must be registered with a GP, have access to health services that s/he may require and be provided with the necessary support for their health needs. Additionally, at least one person on duty in the SCH must have a suitable first aid qualification and any appointed nurse must be registered. The National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Children's Homes are issued under section 23 of the Care Standards Act 2000. These standards are to enable individual providers to develop their own particular ethos and approach to practice. For example, standard 6 of the NMS state that all children's homes (which include SCHs) must promote good health and wellbeing of young people.

It has been agreed by the Department of Health and Ministry of Justice that commissioning responsibility for health services in STCs and SCHs with youth justice commissioned beds, will transfer to the NHS. The Ministry of Justice is also working closely with the Department of Health to ensure that the changes to the NHS proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill (regarding the responsibilities of the National Commissioning Board for those in prison and in custody) will further enhance commissioning of health services in the youth secure estate.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of air passenger duty after aviation enters the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [64254]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 424W.

Carbon Emissions

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether climate change agreements will provide relief from carbon price support rates. [62610]

Justine Greening: Climate change agreements (CCA) provide a discount from the climate change levy to protect the competitive position of energy-intensive industry.

The carbon floor price is levied on the supply of fossil fuels used to generate electricity. Therefore, businesses with CCAs will not pay carbon price support rates.

Budget 2011 confirmed that the discount on electricity for CCA participants will be increased from 65% to 80% from April 2013. The Government will also announce a package of measures by the end of the year to help energy-intensive industry adjust to the low-carbon transformation.

Emergency Services: Pay

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of (i) trade unions and (ii) the Chief Fire Officers Association on pay negotiations in the fire and rescue service. [64327]

Danny Alexander: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly engage with trade unions on overall pay and pension policy. However, pay for the Fire and Rescue Service is negotiated through two National Joint Councils. The NJC for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services negotiates for UK firefighters and control room staff (up to and including the area manager role) and the NJC for Brigade Managers negotiates for Chief Fire Officers, deputies and assistants.

The Treasury is not a member of either of these Joint Councils and therefore no Treasury Minister or official has met either the trade unions or the Chief Fire Officers Association as part of pay negotiations.

EU Economic Policy

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what account the Government take in the formulation of economic policy of assessments of such policy made by EU institutions; [61667]

(2) if he will estimate the number of pages of documentation the UK has submitted under the European Semester initiative in 2011. [61643]

Mr Hoban: The Government support the European Semester as an important development in the EU's overall surveillance framework. The treaty sets out (article 121) that member states shall regard their economic policies as a matter of common concern and shall co-ordinate them within the Council. However, under the terms of the UK's protocol to the treaty, the United Kingdom only has to "endeavour to avoid" excessive Government deficits; all other member states are obliged to "avoid" them. Moreover, because of our opt-out, sanctions cannot apply to the UK under the excessive deficit procedure.

It is important to note that any recommendations adopted by the ECOFIN Council and addressed to the UK are non-binding. When making plans for the annual Budget, the Chancellor routinely considers assessments made by international partners, such as the OECD and IMF, as well as representations from businesses and individuals. He will of course similarly consider the final recommendations of the EU's ECOFIN Council.

In submitting information to Council and the Commission, the Government complied fully with the assurances previously given by the Chancellor and the Prime Minister that the content of the UK's Budget will only be sent after it has been presented to Parliament.

The UK submitted its Convergence Programme, which is a 201-page document, and its National Reform Programme, which is a 66-page document, to the European Commission in April 2011 in fulfilment of its obligations under the European Semester. The content of both documents was drawn entirely from information already in the public domain, including the 2011 Budget.

Public Sector: Pensions

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the opt-out rates for the *(a)* Firefigher Pension Scheme and *(b)* Local Government Pension Scheme that would result from adopting the recommendations of the Independent Public Sector Pensions Commission; and if he will estimate the cost to each scheme in each case; [63769]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost to members of the *(a)* Firefighter Pension Scheme and *(b)* Local Government Pension Scheme arising from implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Public Sector Pensions Commission. [63770]

Danny Alexander: At Budget 2011 the Government accepted Lord Hutton's recommendations as a basis for consultation with public sector workers, trade unions and others. The Government's discussions with unions and other groups are ongoing.

Revenue and Customs: Compensation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 829W, on departmental compensation, what steps he is taking to reduce the need for HM Revenue and Customs to compensate the public for errors made. [63943]

Mr Gauke: HMRC takes all complaints very seriously and recognises the need to minimise any amounts paid out as financial redress by providing better services to customers. HMRC is progressively introducing a programme of continuous improvement to streamline every aspect of its systems and procedures and eliminate errors and delays.

For 2009-10 the payments made under the Department's ex-gratia financial redress policy totalled £3.74 million, including a single, exceptional payment of £1.2 million. For 2010-11, payments totalled £1.41 million. Excluding the exceptional payment this equates to a reduction of 44%.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the findings of the report of the Institute for Public Policy Research on the carbon price floor in the UK. [63998]

Justine Greening: The IPPR support the principle of a floor price for carbon across the EU. However, their underlying assumptions, and subsequent findings, do not recognise some of the wider benefits of a UK price floor.

The impact assessment that accompanied the announcement of the carbon price floor used sophisticated economic modelling of the electricity market. This clearly demonstrated that a UK carbon price floor would unlock additional investment and provide long-term economic, social and environmental benefits for the UK.

CABINET OFFICE

Business: Turnover

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and *(c)* Devon with an annual turnover of less than £25,000. [62801]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of businesses in (a) the UK, (b) England and (c) Devon that have an annual turnover of less than £25,000 per year. [62801]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk.

However, ONS is unable to provide an answer to your question as the business register, upon which the estimates are based, is compiled using information from the VAT trader and PAYE administrative systems. As the VAT registration threshold for

2008/09 was £67,000 per year the feed for the business register from the VAT system will have poor coverage of businesses whose turnover was below £25,000. Furthermore, businesses with very low turnover are unlikely to operate a PAYE scheme leaving the PAYE feed also deficient as a measure of the target businesses.

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* England and *(c)* Devon that employ fewer than five people. [62802]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of businesses in (a) the UK, (b) England and (c) Devon that employ fewer than five people. [62802]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprises are available from the ONS release UK Business: Activity, Size and Location at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics available, which show the number of enterprises in England and Devon with fewer than five employees.

Count of enterprises in the United Kingdom, England and Devon by employee size, 2010

	Fewer than five employees
United Kingdom	1,638,360
England	1,404,970
Devon County	26,870

Cancer

Steve Rotheram: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the mortality rate of cancer patients in *(a)* Liverpool, Walton constituency, *(b)* South Cambridgeshire constituency and *(c)* Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. [64970]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what assessment has been made of the mortality rate of cancer patients in (a) Liverpool, Walton constituency, (b) South Cambridgeshire constituency and (c) Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. (64970)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where the underlying cause of death was cancer, for persons in (a) Liverpool, Walton parliamentary constituency, (b) South Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency and (c) Oxford West and Abingdon parliamentary constituency, for 2009 (the latest year available).

It is not possible from the information given at death registration to state whether the deceased was a patient at the time of death.

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, Liverpool, Walton, South Cambridgeshire, and Oxford West and Abingdon parliamentary constituencies, 2009[1,2,3,4]

	Rate per 100,000 population	*95% Confidence interval*	
Parliamentary constituency	*Rate*	*Lower limit*	*Upper limit*
Liverpool, Walton	244	215	273
South Cambridgeshire	152	132	171
Oxford West and Abingdon	161	141	181

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 (malignant neoplasms).

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

Electricity

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when a decision will be taken on whether the Office for National Statistics will classify proposals for electricity market reform as tax and spend measures. [64381]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking when ONS will classify proposals for electricity market reform as tax and spend measures (64381).

ONS makes classification decisions in line with a published protocol that is available on our website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/downloads/NAclassification.pdf

ONS is aware that the passage of the Energy Bill 2010-11 may raise a number of classification issues. ONS's normal practice is to provide classification decisions once the legislation is finalised and has received Royal Assent.

Government Procurement Card

Mr Spellar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment his Department has made of the benefits to the Government of the use of Government Procurement Cards. [63474]

Mr Maude: Government Procurement Cards are a useful tool in helping Government to transact in the purchase of low cost goods and services and are particularly helpful in supporting our use of SMEs. They enable purchasers to streamline ordering processes, for example removing the need to raise a purchase order, and ensure that the Government meet their prompt payment initiatives.

Recently I commissioned the Government's chief procurement officer to review the usage of these payment cards and deliver a common policy supported by standardised reporting across central Government. We are now working with each of the card providers to provide a consistent method of reporting government procurement card spend data for transactions above £500 in value, so this is available for publication on/via departmental websites, from the end of September 2011.

Statistics: Prices and Inflation

Mr Dodds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which official statistics relating to prices and inflation will be measured by the *(a)* retail prices index and *(b)* consumer prices index in future. [63896]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The retail prices index (RPI) and consumer prices index (CPI) are not measures of official statistics, but are headline measures of price inflation.

In December 2003, the Government announced that the inflation target would be based on the CPI rather than the retail prices index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX).

In June 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 the consumer prices index (CPI) rather than the retail prices index (RPI) will be used for the indexation of all benefits, tax credits and public service pensions.

Budget 2011 announced that from April 2012 the default indexation assumption for direct taxes will switch from the RPI to the CPI. To ensure employers and older people do not lose out, the annual increases in the employer national insurance contributions threshold, and the age-related allowance and other thresholds for older people, will be over-indexed compared to the CPI, and will increase by the equivalent of the RPI. The personal allowance will increase from 2013-14 by at least the equivalent of the RPI, until the Government's goal of increasing the personal allowance to £10,000 is achieved.

The default indexation assumption for indirect taxes and index-linked gilts is currently RPI. The Government expect to undertake a formal consultation on the issuance of CPI-linked gilts in 2011-12. The Government will also review the use of the CPI for indirect taxes once their fiscal consolidation plans have been implemented and the duty increases they inherited from the previous Government have come to an end.

Unemployment

Julie Elliott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many children in Sunderland Central constituency are living in workless households. [64977]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated July 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many children in Sunderland Central constituency are living in workless households. 64977

Estimates of the number of children living in workless households are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. The most current dataset available is for 2009. However, due to the specific nature of your request it is not possible to provide reliable estimates because the sample sizes for this survey are not sufficiently large enough for the Sunderland Central constituency.

HEALTH

Black Country Primary Care Trust

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the arrangements for public engagement in the Black Country Primary Care Trust cluster. [64348]

Mr Simon Burns: We have made no assessment of the arrangements for public engagement in the Black Country Primary Care Trust (PCT) cluster.

The Department published PCT Cluster Implementation Guidance in January 2011 to support the creation of clusters. The guidance set key tasks for clusters and PCTs, including the importance of maintaining effective joint working arrangements and engagement processes with patients, communities, particularly seldom-heard and marginalised groups.

The guidance is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123996.pdf

A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

Blood: Contamination

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of *(a)* Tainted Blood and *(b)* other groups representing those affected by contaminated blood supplies. [64347]

Anne Milton: I met representatives of Tainted Blood, the Manor House Group, the Hepatitis C Trust and the Haemophilia Society, on 29 June 2011.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of women aged 53 to 64 years took part in a breast screening programme in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [64114]

Paul Burstow: This information is not held in the format requested. Information concerning the levels of breast screening coverage for women aged 53 to 64 in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

Coverage is based on the number of women screened from within the eligible population. The eligible population is defined as the number of women in the registered population, less those recorded as ineligible.

Compulsorily Detained Mental Patients

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients subject to sectioning orders have absconded from secure mental hospitals in each of the last five years. [63996]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally.

While we do not maintain statistics on absconds generally, the Department is informed where there is an abscond from a high-security hospital. There has been one abscond from a high-secure hospital in the last five years.

Dental Services: Registration

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information the General Dental Council (GDC) shares with his Department on the number of *(a)* dentists, *(b)* dental nurses, *(c)* dental technicians, *(d)* dental therapists, *(e)* dental hygienists, *(f)* orthodontic therapists, *(g)* clinical dental technicians and *(h)* dental practices that have registered with the GDC. [63884]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table contains information from the General Dental Council's (GDC) website on the numbers of dentists and dental care professionals currently registered with the council.

Number of dentists and dental care professionals currently on the GDC register for the United Kingdom as at 6 July 2010

	GDC registrants
Dentists	38,188
Orthodontic therapists	166
Dental hygienists	5,900
Dental therapists	1,709
Dental technicians	7,011
Clinical dental technicians	168
Dental nurses	46,769

Dental practices are not required to register with the GDC and not all dentists registered are practicing in the UK.

Departmental Lost Property

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* laptops and *(b)* mobile telephones issued to staff of his Department which were lost in each year since 1997. [64035]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table outlines laptop and mobile telephone losses since 1997 by financial year. No distinction is made between items lost or stolen.

Losses from 1997 to 2011

Financial year	*Laptops*	*Mobile telephones, including BlackBerrys*
1997-98	25	19
1998-99	25	19
1999-2000	22	31
2000-01	23	45
2001-02	35	36
2002-03	30	37
2003-04	34	29
2004-05	23	15
2005-06	18	11
2006-07	11	23
2007-08	14	30
2008-09	34	40
2009-10	22	61
2010-11	10	50
Total	326	446

Departmental Visits Abroad

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on overseas visits for Ministers and staff in 2010-11. [64034]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department spent £472,738 on overseas visits during the financial year from April 2010 to March 2011.

Doctors: Pharmacy

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to complete his Department's review of future arrangements for the accreditation of doctors and pharmacists with a special interest; and whether the recommendations and conclusions of the review will be open to public consultation. [64499]

Mr Lansley: The timing of the review of accreditation has been affected by the work of the NHS Future Forum and the Government's response. We are considering next steps on ensuring independent practitioners with a special interest can continue to provide services in the national health service. We will seek the views of interested parties on emerging proposals.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps *(a)* HealthWatch, *(b)* health and wellbeing boards and *(c)* Public Health England will take to ensure that (i) homeless people and (ii) other excluded and disadvantaged groups are a priority in the NHS. [63891]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government have made tackling health inequalities a priority as part of their commitment to fairness and social justice. Subject to the parliamentary process, Local HealthWatch organisations will be the local consumer voice for patients and the public. Local HealthWatch organisations will be inclusive and reflect the views and experiences of its diverse communities. For the local health and wellbeing boards forthcoming guidance on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, there will be an emphasis on the need to look at the health and care needs of the whole population including vulnerable groups such as rough sleepers.

In addition, the new Public Health England will have an important role in working with local government, the NHS and other agencies in reducing inequalities—by identifying actions to tackle the wider determinants of health and well-being and by enabling and supporting individuals and communities to improve their own health. The Health and Social Care Bill gives the Secretary of State a clear statutory duty to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities between the people of England and the new role will place public health at the heart of the wider central Government agenda for the first time.

Health Services: Prisons

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the provision of health services to prisoners in England in each financial year between

1997-98 and 2010-11; and how much was spent on methadone and the treatment of addiction to banned substances in each such year. [64135]

Paul Burstow: Information is not available in respect of health service funding for prisoners before 2003-04, following the transfer of funding responsibility for health services in the publicly run prisons in England from the Home Office to the Department. This transfer process was completed in April 2006, when commissioning responsibility for prison health services was fully devolved to the national health service from the Prison Service.

Information on total expenditure on medical and psychiatric care for prisoners in the publicly run prisons in England between 2003-04 and 2010-11 is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on medical and psychiatric care for prisoners in the publicly run prisons in England 2003-04 to 2010-11

£ million

	Health care	*Escorts and bedwatch*	*Annual total*
2011-12	231.707	22.968	254.675
2010-11	227.077	22.605	249.682
2009-10	213.376	21.477	234.853
2008-09	204.706	19.96	224.666
2007-08	194.942	n/a	194.942
2006-07	183.553	n/a	183.553
2005-06	170.898	n/a	170.898
2004-05	143.557	n/a	143.557
2003-04	130.079	n/a	[1]130.079

n/a = not available

[1] Excludes dental Source: Department of Health

Data are not available on specific expenditure on methadone treatments, but in 2006-07 £11 million was invested by the Department in the prisons Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), which incorporates methadone treatment. IDTS investment increased to £11.5 million in 2007-08, £23.12 million in 2008-09, £39.9 million in 2009-10 and £44.5 million in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

In 2011-12, the Department took over responsibility for all drug treatment in prisons across England. £120.4 million has been allocated for 2011-12 for all drug treatment to adult prisoners.

Health Visitors

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of health visitors in Sure Start children centres in each year since 2009; [64589]

(2) how many new training places for health visitors his Department has created in the last 12 months; [64590]

(3) how many health visitors have been appointed to *(a)* existing and *(b)* newly created posts in 2011 to date. [64591]

Anne Milton: There are currently 545 health visitors in training, due to complete their courses in summer 2011.

There are 1,828 health visitor training commissions planned nationally for the 2011-12 academic year.

Information relating to numbers of health visitors who: were appointed to existing posts in 2011; were appointed to newly created posts in 2011; and were based in Sure Start Children's Centres in 2009, 2010 and 2011, is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Construction

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost in 2011 prices of each hospital construction scheme *(a)* approved, *(b)* opened and *(c)* cancelled since 1997. [63986]

Mr Simon Burns: The following tables show the information requested for all hospital build schemes with a capital value of £25 million or over (at 1999-2000 prices). The Department does not routinely collect 2010-11 cost estimates for all capital schemes so 2010-11 prices have been estimated for each scheme by uprating the real terms figures using the Treasury's Gross Domestic Product deflator series (published on their website and which we use for such exercises).

NHS Hospital Build Schemes (with a capital cost of £25 million or above at 1990-2000 prices) opened, approved and cancelled since 1997, with capital costs shown at 2010-11 prices

Opened

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)*	*Operational date*
North West	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	88	10 April 2000
North West	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	32	1 August 2000
South East Coast	Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust	124	11 September 2000
South Central	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	59	17 October 2000
Yorkshire and the Humber	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41	1 February 2001
London	South London NHS Trust (QE)	126	28 February 2001
North East	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust—Dryburn	80	2 April 2001
Yorkshire and the Humber	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	85	8 April 2001
North West	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	88	25 July 2001
West Midlands	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	37	1 September 2001
East of England	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	208	21 September 2001
West Midlands	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	84	1 March 2002
London	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	71	2 March 2002
West Midlands	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	114	18 March 2002
North East	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust - Bishop Auckland	63	8 June 2002
South Central	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	111	27 July 2002

NHS Hospital Build Schemes (with a capital cost of £25 million or above at 1990-2000 prices) opened, approved and cancelled since 1997, with capital costs shown at 2010-11 prices

Opened

Strategic health authority	NHS trust	Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)	Operational date
London	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	99	7 October 2002
South West	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Swindon and Marlborough)	132	3 December 2002
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust	62	16 December 2002
North East	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	37	25 March 2003
London	South London NHS Trust (Bromley)	155	29 March 2003
South Central	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust	38	29 April 2003
London	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	78	16 May 2003
North East	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	70	12 July 2003
North East	South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	16	1 August 2003
London	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	61	11 September 2003
North West	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	50	1 June 2004
West Midlands	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	68	1 September 2004
London	Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust	43	1 September 2004
South West	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	39	13 November 2004
London	Barnet PCT	51	15 March 2005
South East Coast	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	42	31 March 2005
West Midlands	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	174	1 April 2005
London	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	548	12 June 2005
London	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	44	1 October 2005
London	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	66	31 October 2005
London	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	30	7 November 2005
Yorkshire and the Humber	Kirklees PCT	31	14 November 2005
West Midlands	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	32	28 November 2005
London	East London NHS Foundation Trust	42	1 December 2005
South West	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	36	1 February 2006
North West	Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	57	1 March 2006
London	Wandsworth Teaching PCT	88	10 March 2006
London	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	83	19 March 2006
North West	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	54	1 April 2006
South Central	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	54	15 April 2006
North East	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	37	15 May 2006
North West	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	36	23 May 2006
South West	Avon and Western Wiltshire MH NHS Trust	99	13 June 2006
North West	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust - Blackburn	131	8 July 2006
London	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	66	8 July 2006
West Midlands	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	466	10 July 2006
South Central	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	63	31 July 2006
East Midlands	Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	33	19 September 2006
London	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	39	20 November 2006
London	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	84	27 November 2006
London	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	285	6 December 2006
South Central	Hampshire PCT	42	2 January 2007
South Central	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	160	13 January 2007
South Central	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	45	2 March 2007
Yorkshire and the Humber	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	40	21 April 2007
North East	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	37	23 April 2007
East of England	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	88	18 May 2007
South East Coast	Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust	42	25 June 2007
London	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	30	30 June 2007
East of England	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	68	1 July 2007
London	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	38	3 July 2007
Yorkshire and the Humber	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	309	15 December 2007
East of England	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	41	3 June 2008
East of England	South West Essex PCT	33	18 August 2008
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	77	23 August 2008
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	341	22 September 2008
North West	St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	374	22 October 2008
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	57	6 February 2009
East of England	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	42	11 March 2009
South Central	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	147	19 March 2009
West Midlands	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	61	26 March 2009

NHS Hospital Build Schemes (with a capital cost of £25 million or above at 1990-2000 prices) opened, approved and cancelled since 1997, with capital costs shown at 2010-11 prices

Opened

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)*	*Operational date*
East Midlands	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	373	7 April 2009
East of England	South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	34	7 May 2009
South West	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust/North Bristol NHS Trust	71	12 May 2009
East Midlands	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	374	20 May 2009
East Midlands	Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	32	8 June 2009
East Midlands	Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	38	10 June 2009
South Central	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS trust	270	15 June 2009
North West	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	596	8 July 2009
North East	Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	80	10 May 2010
West Midlands	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	182	24 May 2010
London	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	155	1 June 2010
Yorkshire and the Humber	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	380	7 June 2010
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	45	12 June 2010
East Midlands	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	38	15 June 2010
West Midlands	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust/ Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	693	16 June 2010
East of England	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	361	15 November 2010
East of England	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	159	20 November 2010
North West	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	117	20 November 2010
South East Coast	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	327	26 January 2011

Approved

Strategic health authority	*NHS trust*	*Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)*
Under Construction		
North West	Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	204
West Midlands	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust / Stoke PCT	402
London	Barts and the London NHS Trust	1,106
South West	North Bristol NHS Trust	430
London	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	83
North West	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	45
North West	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	31
Outline Business Case Approved		
North West	Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust	231
East of England	Papworth Hospitals	206
North West	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals	454
London	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital	90
North West	Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital	200

Cancelled

NHS trust	*Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)*
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	32
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	97
Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust	66
Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	17
Hampshire PCT	26
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	14
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	18
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	122
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	135
Imperial College Healthcare/Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust—"Paddington Basin"	343
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	87
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	112
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	198
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	70
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	308
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	86

NHS trust	Cancelled Value at 2010-11 prices (£ million)
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	108
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	118
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	54
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	246
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	145
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	60
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	319
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	209
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	42
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	63
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	485

Mental Health Services

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means service performance reports on psychological therapies have been placed in the public domain to demonstrate the outcomes that services have delivered. [63977]

Paul Burstow: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme collects from primary care trusts information on the number of people who are moving to recovery as a proportion of those who have completed a course of psychological treatment.

A copy of the latest data has been placed in the Library and can also be downloaded from the following website:

https://mqi.ic.nhs.uk/IndicatorDefaultView.aspx?ref=1.07.12

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of psychotherapy in the NHS. [64029]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. It is for the national health service locally to decide how best to meet the needs of its local populations and in doing so it is free to commission a wide range of psychotherapeutic services. In addition, the Department recommends evidence-based, and preferably National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) approved, therapies for the treatment of common mental health problems.

Following the publication of NICE guidelines for depression in October 2009, the Improving Access to Psychological Therapy programme is now beginning to offer a choice of four new NICE approved therapies for the treatment of moderate to severe depression in addition to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. They are: Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Counselling for Depression, Dynamic Interpersonal Therapy, and Couples Therapy for Depression.

NHS Direct

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of providing an answer to a call to NHS Direct in each financial year since 1997; and how many calls NHS Direct received in each such year. [64136]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Calls to NHS Direct (0845 4647 only)

	Cost per call (£)	Number of calls (thousand)
2003-04	23.26	5,244
2004-05	23.13	5,369
2005-06	26.34	5,522
2006-07	25.83	5,018
2007-08	26.10	4,855
2008-09	26.69	5,051
2009-10	25.75	4,920
2010-11	26.24	4,699

Source:
Unpublished but validated data.

This information refers solely to calls to NHS Direct's 0845 4647 service. Data are not available prior to 2003-04 as NHS Direct was not a national organisation at the time.

NHS: Empty Property

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS buildings that are vacant or unused. [64037]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected centrally on national health service buildings that are vacant or unused.

NHS organisations are locally responsible for maintaining and managing their buildings and facilities.

NHS: Equality

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of compliance with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [64036]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not hold this information centrally. Information about the estimated costs of compliance with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 has been published by the Government Equalities Office.

NHS: Labour Mobility

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 874W, on NHS: labour mobility, how

many people have been made redundant by primary care trusts and subsequently re-employed within the NHS *(a)* directly and *(b)* on a temporary or contract basis since 1 January 2011. [64352]

Mr Simon Burns: Between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2011, the estimated number of staff re-employed within the national health service on a permanent basis, having previously been made redundant from a primary care trust (PCT), is 30. During the same period, the estimated number of staff re-employed within the NHS on a fixed-term basis, having previously been made redundant from a PCT, is 20.

Of the 30 re-employed on a permanent basis, 15 were made redundant during January 2010 to December 2010, and 15 were made redundant during January 2011 to March 2011.

Of the 20 re-employed on a fixed-term basis, 15 were made redundant during January 2010 to December 2010, and five were made redundant during January 2011 to March 2011.

These figures are based on the latest published redundancy information and are in addition to the 40 made redundant between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010 and re-employed during that year on a permanent basis, and the 20 re-employed on a fixed-term basis, given in my answer of 29 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 874W.

These estimates are based on data extracted from the Electronic Staff Record Data Warehouse and therefore do not include staff who may have been re-employed by general practices, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS: Reorganisation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that national priorities and commitments are maintained and fulfilled at a local level following the implementation of his proposals for reform of the NHS. [63890]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Islington North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 7 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 88W.

Nurses: Bureaucracy

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mandatory forms nurses were required to complete in the course of their duties in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2010. [63974]

Paul Burstow: We do not collect this information centrally. Some administrative tasks, including record keeping, are an essential part of the nursing role in delivering safe and effective patient care. The number of forms completed will depend on the type of nursing role, the needs of patients and the requirements of the organisation.

Pharmacies: Public Health

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of community pharmacies in promoting public health. [64349]

Mr Simon Burns: Community pharmacy has come a long way in delivering public health services in people's local communities—from services to help people stop smoking, improve their sexual health to needle exchange schemes for drug misusers and promoting healthy lifestyles.

As set out in the NHS White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', pharmacists, working with doctors and other health professionals, have an important and expanding role in optimising the use of medicines and in supporting better health.

In addition, the public health White Paper 'Healthy People, Healthy Lives', makes clear there is real potential to use community pharmacy teams more effectively to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.

Following on from this, the Government's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer has met with the Faculty of Public Health, the Association of Directors of Public Health, the Royal Society of Public Health and the Local Government Association to discuss how best to utilise and develop pharmacy's contribution to public health. Their response has been very positive, with considerable enthusiasm and support for pharmacy to contribute more to the broader public health agenda in the future.

We are now considering how best to further expand pharmacy's role in delivering public health services.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to support the Healthy Living Pharmacy Pathfinder initiative. [64351]

Mr Simon Burns: The concept of a "healthy living pharmacy" was highlighted as a case study in the public health White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'.

The Department welcomes the initiative taken by the main pharmacy representative organisations to promote and support the spread of healthy living pharmacies. The Department is represented on the steering group for this project and looks forward to the evaluation of the pathfinder sites, to see if the results obtained in Portsmouth can be replicated in other parts of the country.

Pharmacies: Smoking Cessation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People, what steps his Department has taken to strengthen its partnership working with pharmacies to promote effective smoking cessation routes. [64350]

Anne Milton: Stop smoking services are the most common locally commissioned service under the community pharmacy contractual framework. For example, in 2009-10, 5,612 stop smoking services were provided locally by

community pharmacies. Recent initiatives to improve the impact of pharmacies in their smoking cessation activities include:

The Department worked closely with pharmacy partners across England between January and March 2011 to pilot a new approach to distributing the NHS Quit Kit—a box of practical tools and support that has been developed to help smokers quit for good.

Through the Department and the Cabinet Office Behaviour Change Unit, the Government are collaborating with Boots to pilot and assess the use of behavioural insights alongside improvement to the quality and length of services provided within the NHS-commissioned stop smoking service provided by Boots.

The results will help inform how publicly commissioned pharmacy local stop smoking services providers can best develop their service offer to help smokers to quit in the future.

In early 2009, the Department commissioned Portsmouth Primary Care Trust (PCT) to develop an evidence-based commissioning framework based on public health need for healthy living pharmacies (HLPs). By May 2011, seven out of 38 pharmacies in Portsmouth had been awarded HLP status. These pharmacies have to demonstrate consistent, high-quality delivery of a range of services such as stopping smoking, weight management, emergency hormonal contraception, Chlamydia screening, advice on alcohol and reviews of the use of their medicines. Interim results indicate that community pharmacies have delivered a total of 664 smoking quits, which exceeds the PCTs annual target of 480 by 38%.

The Department has commissioned the provision of an evidence-based training and assessment programme from the NHS Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training that is freely available to pharmacists and their teams, and other health care professionals, and which leads to significant improvements in the support offered to smokers wanting to quit.

Radiotherapy

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the levels of support which will be required by commissioners in order to commission radiotherapy services; [63916]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to support the implementation of intensity-modulated radiation therapy in at least one centre per network by 2012; [63917]

(3) what proportion of patients receiving radiotherapy for breast cancer were treated using intensity-modulated radiation therapy in the latest period for which figures are available. [63954]

Paul Burstow: "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011/12" sets out that, to improve outcomes from radiotherapy treatment for cancer patients, commissioners should develop local plans to ensure that access rates to radiotherapy and the use of advanced radiotherapy techniques, such as Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT), are appropriate for their populations. The National Cancer Action Team has been working with providers to support the development of IMRT services and, at this time, 20 of the 28 cancer networks have at least one provider offering IMRT.

It is not possible to identify IMRT from other forms of radiotherapy treatment within the Hospital Episode Statistics available to the Department. The Department is working with the national health service to implement a national radiotherapy dataset, and the dataset project team is working with providers to improve collection of data on IMRT.

Release of the radiotherapy dataset is governed by the Radiotherapy Clinical Information Group (RCIG). RCIG has decided to produce a report on the dataset collection for 2009-10, which is due for publication shortly. RCIG is also planning to release the full dataset via the cancer commissioning toolkit (CCT) by the end of the year. The CCT gives commissioners access to high quality data about cancer services across the treatment pathway, allows providers and commissioners to benchmark their performance against one another and supports commissioners to deliver cancer services for local populations.

To support the commissioning of radiotherapy services in the reformed NHS, we will shortly be publishing a transitional update to the Cancer Commissioning Guidance, first published in January 2009. This best practice document sets out key issues and questions that commissioners and cancer network teams will wish to take into consideration when assessing local health needs and when reviewing cancer services. The guidance is intended to complement the CCT.

Skin Cancer

Mrs Siân C. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average length of stay was for patients admitted with a diagnosis of skin cancer for *(a)* elective admissions and *(b)* emergency admissions in each (i) primary care trust, (ii) cancer network and (iii) strategic health authority in the last year for which figures are available; [63924]

(2) how many non-urgent referrals resulting in a diagnosis of skin cancer were made in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available; [63926]

(3) how many non-urgent referrals were made for dermatology in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available; [63927]

(4) how many two week referrals were made for patients with a diagnosis of skin cancer in each primary care trust in the last year for which figures are available. [63928]

Paul Burstow: Information concerning the average length of stay for patients admitted with a diagnosis of skin cancer for elective admissions and emergency admissions in each primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority in 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, has been placed in the Library. This information is not collected at cancer network level.

Information concerning the number of non-urgent referrals that were made for dermatology in each PCT in 2009-10, the latest year for which figures are available, has been placed in the Library.

Information concerning the number of non-urgent referrals resulting in a diagnosis of skin cancer in each PCT is not available in the format requested. For the most recent period for which statistics are available (quarter 4 2010-11) 61,197 persons received first definitive

treatment for cancer. Of these, 25,834, or 42.2% were urgently referred for suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP).

Information concerning the number of two-week referrals made for patients with a diagnosis of skin cancer in each PCT in the last year for which figures are available is not available in the format requested. Statistics on the numbers of urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer by PCT are not published at a cancer specific level. The most recently published commissioner based statistics for the all cancer two week wait cover the period April 2009 to March 2010 and have been placed in the Library.

Statistics on urgent GP referrals for suspected cancer are more regularly published on a provider basis. For the most recent period for which these statistics are available (quarter 4 2010-11) 38,723 persons were urgently referred for suspected skin cancer by their GP and 96% of these patients were seen by a specialist within 14 days.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to review its guidance, "Skin cancer: prevention using public information, sun protection resources and changes to the environment"; and if he will make a statement. [64498]

Paul Burstow: In an earlier answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Guildford (Anne Milton), on 4 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 673W, we stated that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued the public health guidance "Skin cancer: prevention using public information, sun protection resources and changes to the environment" on 26 January 2010, when the guidance was in fact published on 26 January 2011.

NICE will review whether this guidance should be updated three years after publication, but will consider the need for an earlier review in the light of any new evidence submitted to it.

Smoking: Health Services

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people attended NHS Stop Smoking services in the last year for which figures are available; and how many such people set a quit date; [64039]

(2) how many people who attended NHS Stop Smoking services who *(a)* set and *(b)* did not set a quit date successfully stopped smoking after (i) four weeks, (ii) three months, (iii) six months and (iv) 12 months in the latest year for which figures are available. [64040]

Anne Milton: Information for NHS Stop Smoking services is not available in the format requested, because we do not collect data on the number of people who do not set a quit date. However, information is available on the number of people setting a quit date and the number of people who had successfully quit at the four week follow up. This information can be found in Table 2.1 in "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010", which is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sss0910

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Furthermore, information on the number of people who successfully quit at three months, six months and 12 months is also not collected.

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the NHS Stop Smoking Service; and whether he assessed the merits of conducting a randomised controlled trial of the NHS Stop Smoking Service. [64041]

Anne Milton: The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme is currently funding a range of randomised controlled trials and other research on smoking cessation. Details of these projects are available on the programme website at:

www.hta.ac.uk/project/index.asp

References to research evidence on smoking cessation are available in "Public Health Guidance 10 Smoking cessation services", published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in February 2008 and "Local Stop Smoking Services: Service delivery and monitoring guidance 2011-12", published by the Department in March 2011. These documents have been placed in the Library.

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the NHS Stop Smoking Service in 2010-11; and how much the service spent on *(a)* nicotine replacement therapy, *(b)* Zyban or Bupropion, *(c)* Champix or Varenicline and *(d)* other drugs and interventions. [64042]

Paul Burstow: Information on expenditure by type of pharmacotherapy is not available in the format requested. The NHS Information Centre holds information showing the overall number of smoking cessation prescription items prescribed by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and others dispensed in the community in England in 2009-10, and the corresponding net ingredient cost of these items, but it is not possible to identify the proportion of these figures that relate to NHS Stop Smoking Services. Overall figures relating to all smoking cessation prescription items dispensed into the community are published in footnote four of Table 4.1 of "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010".

Information on expenditure is contained in Table 4.5 of "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010". This table shows the number of people who successfully quit, total expenditure and average cost per quitter for NHS Stop Smoking Services in each year from 2001-02 to 2009-10.

"Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010" is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sss0910

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of each patient who gives up smoking as a result of services provided by the NHS Stop Smoking Service. [64043]

Paul Burstow: The data for the number of smokers successfully quitting, total expenditure and the average cost of a quitter in each year from 2001-02 to 2009-10 is contained in Table 4.5 of "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010", which is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sss0910

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

The data for 2010-11 is expected to be published next month.

Tomography: Medical Records

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on storing radiology records in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [63937]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held centrally. The method of storage depends on individual trusts and the type of records being stored. For electronic radiology records some trusts chose to store them locally whereas others use one of the four central stores which are available for this purpose. The charges incurred for storage and maintenance of electronic records held by the central stores are as follows:

Financial year	*Charges incurred (£)*
2006-07	5,841,000
2007-08	15,177,000
2008-09	16,361,000
2009-10	23,268,000
2010-11	28,240,000

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Personal Records

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to reduce the period during which military service records are not disclosed. [63913]

Mr Robathan: We have no plans so to do.

Aviation: Aircraft Carriers

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of *(a)* operating (i) aircraft from Italy and (ii) an aircraft carrier within 20 miles of Libya for (A) one and (B) three months and *(b)* moving an aircraft carrier from the UK to Libya. [60605]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 17 June 2011]:* I will write to the hon. Member shortly.

Substantive answer from Nick Harvey to Andrew Turner:

I promised to write to you on 17 June regarding your tabled question in the House about the cost of operating aircraft in support of the UK mission in Libya.

As the Secretary of State reported to the House on 23 June (Official Report, column 24WS), the current estimate of the net additional costs of military operations for six months in support of Operation Ellamy—the United Kingdom's contribution to coalition operations in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973—is in the region of £120 million. This excludes costs associated with capital munitions expended. You asked specifically about the costs of operating aircraft from Italy which, I am afraid, can not be broken out separately as the information is not held in that format.

Based upon current consumption rates we estimate the cost of replenishing munitions may be up to £140 million.

You also asked about the cost of moving and operating an aircraft carrier off the coast of Libya. As the UK does not currently maintain a carrier strike capability we have not prepared cost estimates for a hypothetical scenario. Historic costs for the previous capability are not a good guide as it is impossible to know how NATO would have used such a capability if it had been available and offered, whether alongside or instead of the British aircraft currently contributing to the operation. Hence it is impossible to estimate some key cost drivers such as weapons expenditure and flying hours.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile Programme

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile programme; and if he will make a statement; [63748]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of the Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile programme; [63749]

(3) what estimate he has made of how many missiles will be supplied to the armed forces under the Beyond Visual Air-to-Air Missile programme. [63750]

Peter Luff: The six-nation Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) programme is currently in the final stages of its demonstration phase. Missile deliveries are on schedule to begin as planned in 2012. Integration on to Typhoon forms part of the programme, with an anticipated initial operating capability in 2015.

As stated in the major projects report 2010, the estimated total cost of the UK share of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases of the BVRAAM programme is £1,325 million.

Information relating to future in-service BVRAAM stock levels is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security and because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Contracts

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department plans to renegotiate; and with which companies he has begun such negotiations. [63654]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's renegotiation programme was initiated to support the strategic defence and security review, through contract termination, re-scoping or deferral. Over 500 contracts across 100 programmes are estimated to be affected and the Ministry of Defence is examining over 300 of these in the first instance. We expect the process of renegotiation to take around 18 months, with the initial focus being on those contracts which will deliver the highest savings in 2011-12. We have already renegotiated around 30 contracts with BAE Systems and Rolls Royce relating to the Nimrod and Harrier programmes.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made on the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme; and if he will make a statement; [63771]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme; [63772]

(3) what estimate he has made of how many planes will be supplied to the armed forces under the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme. [63773]

Peter Luff: The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft programme is making good progress and remains within its approved performance, cost and time boundaries. The first two aircraft, Airbus A330-200, converted to military specification are currently undergoing flight testing. At RAF Brize Norton, Air Tanker Ltd has built a hangar and operations centre, maintenance and training facilities. These have been completed ahead of schedule in readiness for introduction to service later in 2011.

The current forecast whole life cost is £12 billion; this includes the private finance initiative (PFI) contract cost and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) costs, such as fuel and RAF manpower that fall outside the PFI contract. The flexibility within the contract allows the MOD to optimise value for money by exploiting the aircraft to the utmost. We are also investigating options with international partners on how best to utilise any spare capacity.

Under the PFI contract 14 aircraft will be available to the MOD by September 2016. These will be made available incrementally with the first aircraft being introduced into service in late 2011. The air-to-air refuelling capability will be available with the first aircraft in 2011 and is on schedule to meet the approved in-service date for air-to-air refuelling of 2014 with the delivery of the ninth aircraft. The final five aircraft will be delivered up to September 2016.

Libya: Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 79W, on Libya: public expenditure and the oral answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr Tyrie) from the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 850, on what date his Department amended its initial estimate of the cost of the UK contribution to coalition operations in support of UN Security Council Resolution 1973 to *(a)* the figure given in the answer of 16 May 2011 and *(b)* the figure given on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 44WS; and what the reason was for the change in each such estimate. [63616]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has been progressively refining its estimates in the light of the changing operational environment. As was made clear in the answers given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne), on 22 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 850, and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander), on 16 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 79W, it was too early at that time to provide a robust estimate of the costs of the operations in Libya. The statement I made on 23 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 24WS, provided an estimate for a six-month period. Costs will continue to be accounted for and reported to Parliament in MOD accounts.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights the UK has made under the NATO Strategic Airlift Interim Solution since December 2009; what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost per flight has been; and which aircraft were used. [63067]

Peter Luff: In financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11 a total of £21 million was spent on 46 tasks involving the use of Antonov AN-124 aircraft for strategic airlift. The average cost of each task was around £450,000. The forecast for financial year 2011-12 is that some £12 million will be spent on some 25 tasks.

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress his Department has made on the Watchkeeper project; and if he will make a statement; [63761]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total cost of the Watchkeeper project; [63762]

(3) how many unmanned aerial vehicles will be supplied to the armed forces under the Watchkeeper programme. [63763]

Peter Luff: The Watchkeeper Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) is being developed and manufactured at UAV Tactical Systems Ltd, the Thales UK/Elbit Systems joint venture company site in Leicester. Flight trials are currently taking place at Parc Aberporth, West Wales and it is planned that Watchkeeper will deploy to Afghanistan with an initial operating capability at the end of this year.

The cost of the Watchkeeper programme is just under £1 billion and it is planned that 54 Watchkeeper UAVs will be built for use by UK armed forces.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the communiqué of the recent G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Paris, what steps she plans to take to strengthen agricultural research and innovation. [63805]

Mr Paice: The Government invest about £400 million per annum in agriculture and food research, including up to £90 million over five years through the TSB Sustainable Agriculture Food Platform, which provides a key mechanism for driving innovation by providing co-funding for industry-led innovation in agriculture and technology transfer.

Government funders, industry and third sector are working together through the Government Chief Scientist Partnership and the Global Food Security Programme to ensure that multi-disciplinary research being funded is robust, relevant and provides value For money.

To strengthen agricultural research and innovation, the Government are actively building links and joint initiatives, for example through membership of the EU Joint Programming Initiative which aims to maximise member state benefit from R&D funding, and the Global Research Alliance which aims to find ways of reducing greenhouse gases through international collaboration.

The Government will continue to develop and build on these partnerships, for example by contributing to the coordination of the International Research Initiative for Wheat announced at the G20 meeting in Paris.

Climate Change

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the potential effect of global warming on sea levels around the UK. [64270]

Richard Benyon: The most recent Government-funded assessment made of the potential effect of global warming on sea level rise around the UK comes from DEFRA's UK Climate Projections (UKCP09), released in June 2009.

UKCP09 outlines three plausible scenarios with sea level rises ranging between 20cm and 90cm (relative to the 1961-90 average) by 2100. An additional climate scenario presented in UKCP09 describes a plausible, but highly uncertain, extreme scenario for long-term sea level rise contingency planning, which projects a sea level rise of up to 1.9m also by 2100.

Food: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will make an assessment of the potential effects of current levels of crop growth for biofuel production on food price. [63808]

Mr Paice: In 2010 DEFRA published a report on the causes of the 2007-08 agricultural price spikes, which included an annex: "The role of demand for biofuel in the agricultural commodity price spikes of 2007/08". This report is available at:

http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/food/security/price.htm

Additionally, in 2008 DEFRA published the report "The impact of biofuels on commodity prices," reviewing the existing research on the impact of biofuels on commodity and food prices. This report is available at:

http://www.archive.defra.gov.uk/evidence/series/documents/impact-biofuels-commodities.pdf

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution her Department plans to make to the Rapid Response Forum on the mitigation of global food price rises. [63819]

Mr Paice: DEFRA will participate enthusiastically in these initiatives. It is too early to say what form our contribution will take.

Forests

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the cost to her Department has been of the consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England; [65059]

(2) how much her Department spent on external consultants as part of the consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England. [65060]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 March 2011, *Official Report*, column 325W.

National Forest

Oliver Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hectares of new woodland were created in the National Forest in 2010; and if she will assess the prospects for future new woodland creation in that area. [63972]

Mr Paice: The National Forest Company created 195 hectares of new woodland in the planting season 2010-11.

The National Forest Company estimates that it will create 150 hectares of woodland in 2011-12, and in the three years following it expects to plant in the range of 150 to 175 hectares, depending on a number of factors including land availability.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made on the Affordable Homes programme in Richmond, London. [64360]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency has received a very encouraging response from providers for new affordable homes in 2011-15. These offers are now being assessed and we expect allocations to be announced shortly with initial contracts expected to be signed in September.

We have set out specific arrangements for London, given our commitment to devolve investment powers to the Mayor. We have said that we will seek to deliver a similar percentage of new affordable homes in London from the new programme as previously. This will depend on the relative value for money of offers in London and elsewhere.

Council Tax: Overpayments

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on the Valuation Office Agency to repay any *(a)* overpayment and *(b)* interest lost due to overpayment of council tax in circumstances where (i) the property was incorrectly valued and (ii) any overpayment was due to a mistake made by the resident. [63237]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for South West Hertfordshire (Mr Gauke), on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1125W.

Departmental Billing

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invoices received by his Department were paid *(a)* on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010; and what the monetary value was of invoices paid late. [62479]

Robert Neill: The following table shows how many invoices have been *(a)* paid on time and *(b)* late in each month since May 2010. The monetary value of the invoices paid late is also shown.

	(a) Number of invoices paid on time[1]	*% paid on time*	*(b) Number of invoices paid late*[2]	*% paid late*	*Monetary value of invoices paid late*[3] *(£)*
2010					
May	2,997	76.94	691	23.06	7,492,744
June	2,985	80.03	596	19.97	8,500,274
July	2,795	79.25	580	20.75	12,045,928
August	2,479	79.43	510	20.57	7,699,845
September	2,420	83.55	398	16.45	7,965,303
October	2,676	83.18	450	16.82	5,609,025
November	2,513	81.93	454	18.07	10,872,191
December	2,030	82.12	363	17.88	9,938,899
2011					
January	2,097	81.12	396	18.88	8,216,391
February	1,992	79.07	417	20.93	7,680,871
March	2,335	75.89	563	24.11	13,583,804
April	1,751	79.10	366	20.9	25,057,281
May	1,411	84.05	225	15.95	5,069,423

[1] Within five days of receipt. [2] After five days of receipt. [3] Excludes the value of late payments made by the Planning Inspectorate between May 2010 and July 2010 as these data are not available.

As a comparison the following table shows how many invoices were paid *(a)* paid on time and *(b)* late in each month between April 2009 and April 2010. Between April 2009 and April 2010 the Department's payment target was to pay 90% of all supplier invoices within 10 days of receipt. The monetary value of the invoices paid late is also shown.

	(a) Number of invoices paid on time[1]	*% paid on time*	*(b) Number of invoices paid late*[2]	*% paid late*	*Monetary value of invoices paid late (£)*
2009					
April	5,404	83.55	889	16.45	7,075,072
May	4,221	91.83	345	8.17	4,102,415
June	5,026	90.53	476	9.47	13,644,082
July	5,166	92.26	400	7.74	4,974,043
August	4,557	89.88	461	10.12	5,721,211
September	4,730	90.59	445	9.41	3,202,750
October	4,803	93.38	318	6.62	2,944,763
November	4,518	93.01	316	6.99	8,633,352
December	3,782	92.91	268	7.09	6,588,669
2010					
January	4,249	89.08	464	10.92	11,959,088
February	4,195	90.44	401	9.56	5,715,524
March	5,963	92.35	456	7.65	5,091,132
April	4,238	90.89	386	9.11	7,909,919

[1] Within 10 days of receipt. [2] After 10 days of receipt.

The five day target is more demanding than the 10 day target which operated previously, and we are improving systems and processes to help meet it.

Empty Property: Greater London

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has estimated the number of empty homes in *(a)* Greater London and *(b)* Hendon constituency. [64800]

Robert Neill: As at October 2010, the latest date that information is available, there were 79,971 empty dwellings in London, of these 3,679 were in the London borough of Barnet.

The data are as reported by local authorities and are a snapshot taken in the autumn each year. Data are collected at local authority level and it is not possible to provide data at constituency level.

In this answer, empty dwellings includes both long-term and short-term empty dwellings.

Fire Services

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he last met representatives of the *(a)* Chief Fire Officers Association and *(b)* Fire Brigades Union to discuss fire control issues. [63800]

Robert Neill: I last met representatives of *(a)* the Chief Fire Officers Association on 8 February 2011 and *(b)* Fire Brigades Union on 22 March 2011 to discuss fire control issues.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he last met representatives of *(a)* Control Centre General Partner, *(b)* AAIM Warrington Unit Trust, *(c)* Canada Life, *(d)* Aviva and *(e)* Leafrange to discuss the FiReControl estate; and from which of those companies submissions were received as part of his Department's consultation on the future of fire and rescue control services in England. [63802]

Robert Neill: Ministers have not met representatives of these organisations to discuss the FiReControl estate. None of the organisations submitted a response to the recent consultation.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the recommendations in the report of the Local Government Association's Fire Commission on the future of the Fire Service College; and if he will make a statement. [64328]

Robert Neill: As was said in the Government's response to the Fire Futures Reports, we very much welcome the leadership and commitment the Local Government Association have shown in respect of securing the future of the Fire Service College. We will take their findings and recommendations into account in taking forward the future options work to deliver a new operation and governance model for the Fire Service College which, through greater involvement from other sectors, secures its future.

Fire Services: Private Sector

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which fire and rescue authorities are seeking to outsource fire control provision; what stage has been reached in each case; what his policy is on outsourcing fire control; and what guidance his Department provides to fire authorities on outsourcing fire control. [63798]

Robert Neill: As I made clear in my statement to the House on 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 22WS, no solution will be imposed by the Government on fire and rescue authorities in making decisions on the future of their control services. I am aware that a number of fire and rescue authorities have plans to outsource their control services to another authority or consortium, thereby improving efficiency and resilience. I welcome this increased collaboration. However, fire and rescue authorities are the experts in running control services and do not require guidance from central Government on this.

I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on Fire Control made to the House on 5 July 2011, *Official Report*, columns 82-83WS.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 apply to fire control staff transferring to the private sector; and if he will ensure that the revised version of the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector 2000 is applied to any transfer of such staff within the public sector. [63799]

Robert Neill: This is a matter for fire and rescue authorities to consider as the employers of fire control staff.

Homelessness

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for local accountability mechanisms to monitor the effects of community empowerment on the provision of services to *(a)* homeless people and *(b)* other vulnerable groups. [63893]

Grant Shapps: Through the Localism Bill we are introducing major reforms to public services and providing new rights for communities, promoting transparency and strengthening local democracy and this means that local democratic processes will become even more important and councillors all the more essential as we push power to the most local level possible.

A local authority's statutory homelessness duties remain and there is no means by which this might be weakened. Local housing authorities will still be required to secure suitable accommodation for households who are eligible for assistance, homeless through no fault of their own and in 'priority need'.

We know that sometimes people may need support and that some areas will require more help than others. That is why we are putting measures in place to remove the institutional barriers to taking collective action such as supporting participatory budgeting which can help improve understanding of the complexities of public budgets and democratic structures, and it can specifically address the needs of vulnerable groups.

Homelessness: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information he holds on the level of expenditure by each local authority to support people sleeping rough in each of the last five years. [64118]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows Department for Communities and Local Government homelessness grant funding for the years requested.

Homelessness grant funding 2006-07 to 2010-11

	LAs (£ million)	*Voluntary organisations (£ million)*	*Total*
2006-07	49.5	18	67.5
2007-08	51	19.5	70.5

Homelessness grant funding 2006-07 to 2010-11

	LAs (£ million)	Voluntary organisations (£ million)	Total
2008-09	59.5	17.1	76.5
2009-10	59.51	18.4	77.9
2010-11	74.11	18.7	92.8

In addition the Department currently collects retrospective year-end spend data from top-tier local authorities via the Supporting People Local Systems data set. This includes 'spend' broken down by Supporting People primary client groups including 'rough sleepers'. Supporting People provides housing related support services to vulnerable people including rough sleepers.

Total spend by Supporting People top-tier authority per primary client group

	Rough sleeper (£)
2005-06	16,259,386
2006-07	17,485,753
2007-08	18,776,088
2008-09	18,916,951
2009-10	19,661,062

Source:
Supporting People Local Systems data

Spend data to cover financial year 2010-11 are not available yet.

This Government takes homelessness very seriously, which is why we are maintaining investment in homelessness grant at £100 million a year for each of the next four years to support local authorities and the voluntary sector in their work to tackle homelessness.

Homes and Communities Agency: Apprentices

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 599W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: apprentices, (1) how many apprenticeships were registered with the National Apprenticeship Service by the Homes and Communities Agency in 2010-11; [63923]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Homes and Communities Agency's procedures for monitoring and recording information on the number of apprenticeship places created using Homes and Communities Agency funding. [63978]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency does not register apprenticeships with the National Apprenticeship Service, as this would duplicate the efforts of its partners with whom that responsibility lies.

The agency's partners report using the definition of an apprenticeship which has been agreed with the National Apprenticeship Service. This definition and the agency's procedures for monitoring are set out in its guidance for partners made available through its website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/ourwork/job-creation

I am arranging for a copy of the document to be placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Ex-servicemen

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration his Department has given to assisting *(a)* service personnel serving overseas and *(b)* veterans to buy their first home. [64707]

Grant Shapps: Following the Armed Forces Housing summit that I chaired in May, I promoted armed forces to the top national priority group for assistance (alongside social tenants) under our new Firstbuy equity loan scheme and for Government-funded shared ownership homes.

This means that serving members of the armed forces, as well as those recently retired, will now be at the front of the queue to benefit from these schemes. And to make sure they know about the scheme, I am sending special housing agents (Homebuy Agents) to bases, both at home and abroad, to help armed forces personnel maximise their access to Firstbuy and other affordable home ownership schemes. The agents will explain how schemes work and discuss options to ensure that service personnel have the greatest opportunity to benefit.

My officials, alongside the Ministry of Defence, are also working with credit reference agencies and Royal Mail to tackle the barriers which can disadvantage service or ex-service personnel in securing a mortgage.

Industrial Health and Safety

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has estimated the cost to local authorities of implementing the recommendations of the Common Sense, Common Safety report in respect of *(a)* conducting an internal review of each refusal to allow an event to take place and *(b)* the payment of damages by the Local Government Ombudsman where an event was found to have been incorrectly banned on the grounds of health and safety. [64197]

Robert Neill: The Government have committed to implement the recommendations in the report "Common Sense, Common Safety" in relation to the banning of events by councils on the grounds of health and safety. We are working with the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr Chope) to implement these recommendations through his Local Government Ombudsman (Amendment) Private Member's Bill. An impact assessment relating to the content of the amended Bill will be published in due course.

Local Development Frameworks

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether people will be given powers to challenge the evidence used by their local authority in determining its local development plan; and if he will make a statement. [64011]

Robert Neill: Existing legislation enables communities to make representations on, and contribute to, evidence that local authorities gather at specific statutory stages in the preparation of local plans. Local people can also request to appear at the public examination to which

council prepared development plans must be submitted, and make their views known to the independent planning inspector who tests whether the plan is suitable for adoption including an assessment of the evidence used in preparing the plan.

The Government are introducing new powers in the Localism Bill to enable communities to have a further say on shaping development in their area and to make decisions through neighbourhood planning.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what authority local authorities have to develop their own local development frameworks; by what mechanism he proposes that disputes between local authorities are to be decided; and if he will make a statement. [64012]

Robert Neill: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 allows local councils to prepare planning documents which, taken as a whole, set out the policies relating to the development and use of land in their area.

The Localism Bill places a duty on local councils to co-operate with each other in planning for sustainable development. The Bill will amend the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act so that councils will not be allowed to adopt statutory development plans where they have not satisfied an independent planning inspector that they have complied with this duty to co-operate.

Local Government

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are required to work with neighbouring authorities in developing joint core strategies; and if he will make a statement. [64013]

Robert Neill: Councils should set out policies relating to the development and use of land in their area. They have the ability to plan with neighbouring authorities if they wish. The mechanism to produce joint statutory development plans is set out in existing legislation.

The Government are bringing forward proposals in the Localism Bill to ensure local councils work together in planning for sustainable development. Councils will be required to consider whether to prepare joint planning documents on matters that cross local planning authority boundaries.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely change in the aggregate income of *(a)* the City of Westminster and *(b)* the City of Sheffield between 2011-12 and 2012-13 attributable to the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals for the future apportionment of business rates. [64198]

Robert Neill: No estimate has been made of the likely change in the aggregate income of *(a)* the City of Westminster and *(b)* the City of Sheffield between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Planning: Floods

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will amend national planning guidance to prevent developments on flood plains or in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [64015]

Robert Neill: The new draft National Planning Policy Framework, which will consolidate all planning policy into one document, will be published for consultation in July. The Framework will contain policy on the avoidance and management of the risk of flooding to development.

Public Order Offences: Byelaws

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to take steps to enable local authorities to introduce bye-laws relating to spitting in public places; and if he will make a statement. [62335]

Robert Neill: Spitting in a public place is an antisocial, unpleasant and unhealthy practice. Any byelaw application will be considered on a case by case basis, on its merits.

Waste Disposal

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on any relationship between rates of recycling and the frequency of bin collections. [63842]

Robert Neill: We believe the public have a reasonable expectation that their household waste collections should be weekly, particularly for smelly waste. My Department does not hold centrally the frequency data requested. However, we will be working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme to monitor levels of service, and my Department is examining how we can increase the frequency and cost-efficiency of waste collections.

We want to make it easier to recycle, including by encouraging incentive schemes like Recyclebank, and to tackle measures which encouraged councils to cut the scope of collections. That is why we have already ditched the last Government's policy of imposing fortnightly collections.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Low-carbon Economy

23. **Joan Ruddock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress towards a low-carbon economy. [64287]

Chris Huhne: The UK low carbon and environmental goods and services sector rose to £112 billion in 2008-09—an annual increase of 4.3% on 2007-08. And:

the Green Deal will lever billions of pounds of private investment to improve energy efficiency;

the Renewable Heat Incentive will help a more-than-tenfold increase of renewable heat over the coming decade;

and the Green Investment Bank where we have provided £3 billion to steer new sources of capital towards low-carbon projects.

Carbon Emissions

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent changes have been made to the Carbon Reduction Commitment; and if he will make a statement. [64926]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement on the simplification of the CRC energy efficiency scheme that I laid before the House on 30 June, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS.

Departmental Official Cars

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department was of the provision of ministerial cars in each financial year between its inception and 2010-11; how many *(a)* cars for the exclusive use of Ministers and *(b)* ministerial car journeys were paid for by his Department in each such year; what the average cost to his Department of a ministerial car journey was in each such year; and what steps his Department has taken to reduce the cost of ministerial cars since his appointment. [62992]

Gregory Barker: DECC was created on 3 October 2008.

Information relating to the cost and number of ministerial cars is published in an annual written ministerial statement, details of which can be found within the Libraries of both Houses. Links to the details are shown as follows.

2008/09:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm

2009/10:

http://www2.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/hammond20101028a.html

Details of the costs for 2010-11 are currently being complied and are due for release later this month.

DECC cancelled its contract with the Government Car Service with effect from 2 September 2010 and no cars or drivers are allocated to its Ministers.

Information relating to individual ministerial car journeys prior to September 2010 is not available as there was no requirement to collect these data. Information relating to the number of ministerial car journeys made since the introduction of the 'on demand' ministerial car service on 6 September until 31 March is detailed in the following table:

	Number of journeys
2010	
September	30
October	23
November	37
December	23
2011	
January	46
February	43
March	57
Total	259

Departmental Responsibilities

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions a request for a meeting by an hon. Member of each political party has been refused by *(a)* a Minister in his Department directly and *(b)* his Department on behalf of a Minister since May 2010. [64432]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers make every effort to meet hon. and right hon. Members from all parties who wish to meet them. The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Community Energy Saving Programme

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what financial penalties will be imposed on energy supply companies who do not meet their obligations under the Community Energy Saving programme. [64375]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem, as the administrator of the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), is able to enforce what is termed a "relevant requirement" by imposing a penalty of up to 10% of an offending energy company's global turnover. Any enforcement action can be expected to be proportionate to the contravention of the relevant requirement.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps Ofgem is taking in respect of distribution of Community Energy Saving programme projects *(a)* between and *(b)* within regions. [64376]

Gregory Barker: There are around 4,500 Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) eligible areas throughout Great Britain. Within these defined areas, companies with a CESP obligation are free to choose where they deliver CESP schemes. They are not subject to any regional targets under the legislation.

Ofgem as the administrator of CESP is responsible for ensuring companies meet their overall CESP obligations. Ofgem publishes an annual report on CESP progress, including information on the regional distribution of schemes.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has any plans to extend the Community Energy Saving programme beyond the poorest 10 per cent. of local super output areas. [64377]

Gregory Barker: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) is available to households in the lowest 10% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation lower super output areas (LSOA) in England and the lowest 15% in Wales. In Scotland eligibility is based on the lowest 15% Data Zones.

These criteria are set out in the legislation governing the scheme, and there are no plans to amend that legislation.

Energy: Housing

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps Ofgem plans to take to increase private sector housing participation in the Community Energy Saving programme. [64378]

Gregory Barker: There are around 4,500 Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) eligible areas throughout Great Britain. These areas include housing of a variety of types of tenure, including private sector housing. Within these defined areas companies with CESP obligations are free to choose the dwellings supported.

Ofgem, as the administrator of CESP, ensure companies meet their overall obligations but does not have a role in targeting schemes or promoting particular tenures.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking as part of the Community Energy Support programme to maintain the requirement to favour whole house solutions. [64379]

Gregory Barker: The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) seeks to promote whole house retrofits of properties by rewarding obligated parties with a "bonus", of extra carbon savings against their target, where they deliver multiple measures in the same property. This approach is set out in the legislation governing the scheme, and there are no plans to amend that legislation.

Scheme proposals from the energy companies indicate that in the vast majority of cases a whole house approach is planned.

Chris Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 885W, on housing: energy, and to the contribution by the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change of 10 May 2011, *Official Report*, column 1098, when he plans to publish the outstanding annual progress report under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; and if he will make a statement. [64585]

Gregory Barker: The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires the Secretary of State to report from time to time on progress made by energy conservation authorities in implementing measures set out in their reports.

The forthcoming Green Deal will fundamentally change the landscape for improving household energy efficiency and we will work with local government to revitalise HECA, including developing a fresh and light touch approach to reporting, consistent with the Government's localism agenda. We will publish a progress report after the launch of the Green Deal.

Energy: USA

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value was of each trade deal attributable to his Department's green trade mission to the United States in 2011; and which US and UK companies were involved in each deal. [64772]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 58W.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for green trade missions to *(a)* the USA and *(b)* any other country in the next 12 months. [64849]

Gregory Barker: We expect further green trade missions in the future, to build on the success of the first, but I would refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) on 26 April 2011, *Official Report*, column 59W.

Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 130W, on solar power, how many *(a)* installations and *(b)* megawatts of installed capacity there were in each month of operation of the GB feed-in-tariffs scheme. [64353]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the number of solar photovoltaic installations and the amount of installed capacity confirmed on the feed in tariff scheme at the end of each month of operation.

End of:	*Number of solar photovoltaic installations*	*Solar photovoltaic installed capacity (MW)*
April 2010	406	0.98
May 2010	1,297	3.15
June 2010	2,700	6.67
July 2010	4,449	11.24
August 2010	8,083	19.96
September 2010	10,513	26.27
October 2010	12,860	32.80
November 2010	15,126	39.09
December 2010	17,191	44.90
January 2011	20,468	54.06
February 2011	23,884	64.04
March 2011	28,505	77.85
April 2011	32,208	88.39
May 2011	37,633	104.75
June 2011	43,140	121.60

Data from DECC's feed in tariff capacity: monthly update, available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/energy_stats/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Fukushima

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 21 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on Fukushima (Interim Report), what resources will be committed to the review of the Japanese response to the Fukushima emergency to identify lessons for UK public contingency planning for widespread emergencies; and whether he expects to engage independent experts to assist in the review. [63371]

Charles Hendry: The Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Cabinet Office are currently considering what Government resources will be committed to the review of the Japanese response to the Fukushima emergency, including possible engagement with independent experts. This review was recommended by the Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations in his interim report on the implications for the UK nuclear industry of the Fukushima incident (the 'Weightman Report'). The Office for Nuclear Regulation's costs in preparing the Weightman Report have been met from its existing budget, which is largely recovered from industry.

The Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group (NEPLG) will play an important role in the Government's response to the events at Fukushima. The group, which is resourced by Departments and agencies nationally, is currently reviewing the capacity and capability of the UK's nuclear emergency response arrangements to effectively manage a prolonged nuclear emergency, caused by a UK or overseas incident. The NEPLG is a national forum, which brings together organisations with an interest in off-site planning for an emergency at civil nuclear sites, including licensed site operators, and representatives from local authorities and the emergency services. Under its terms of reference, the group agrees improvements in planning, procedure and organisation which might form a framework of advice to nuclear operators, the emergency services and those other organisations that may be involved in the response to a nuclear emergency.

Green Deal Scheme

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had with the Behavioural Insights Team at the Cabinet Office to discuss the Green Deal. [64844]

Gregory Barker: DECC officials have worked closely with the Cabinet Office Behavioural Insights Team and officials from other Departments in preparation of the Behaviour Change and Energy Use report, which was launched on 6 July. The Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my noble Friend Lord Marland, has met the team to discuss certain elements of the report relating to the design of energy performance certificates.

Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will outline his proposals for incentives for consumers to take up the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [64851]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal framework will allow providers to develop their own approaches for encouraging demand. The Government published a Behavioural Change and Energy Use report on 6 July which includes details of a number of trials to test the impact of different incentives, and the findings will inform providers. The 2011 Budget also confirmed the Government's commitment to act to incentivise and encourage take-up of the Green Deal and DECC will work with HM Treasury and other Departments to consider possible options.

Radiation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the members are of the technical co-ordination group created to consider how the results of national radiation monitoring are to be collated and communicated to the public; and what relevant experience and expertise each such member has. [63368]

Charles Hendry: The technical co-ordination group's role is to look at how information collected by the national radiation monitoring network and nuclear emergency response system (RIMNET) and other radiation monitoring capabilities can best be made accessible to the public.

The group is made up of representatives from a number of Departments and agencies each with a role in radiation monitoring. Core member organisations are the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Environment Agency, Met Office, RIMNET, GO Science, Food Standards Agency, Health Protection Agency, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Other organisations, such as the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), may be invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis as appropriate. Relevant individuals will be drawn from these organisations to participate in the group's meetings based on their expertise and the agenda for discussion. Thus, the group's membership varies depending on the specific issues subject to its consideration at any given time.

Renewable Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the UK's capacity to generate 15 per cent. of energy from renewable sources by 2020. [64000]

Gregory Barker: The UK has a binding target under the renewable energy directive to produce 15% of its energy from renewable sources across the electricity, heat and transport sectors by 2020. This includes a target of 10% renewable energy in transport by 2020.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan, published by DECC in July 2010, provides details on a set of measures that would enable the UK to meet its 2020 target. It sets out the 'lead scenario' which demonstrates that it is possible to achieve the 15% target, and also provides one view of the technology mix in 2020.

More recently, we have published updated renewable heat analysis[1] and on renewable electricity (by Arup[2]).

[1] "Renewable Heat Incentive Impact Assessment" (DECC, March 2011)

[2] "Review of the generation costs and deployment potential of renewable electricity technologies in the UK"

Social Rented Housing: Energy

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with local authorities on steps to improve the energy efficiency of local authority-owned housing stock. [64288]

Gregory Barker: I am actively engaging local authorities on this issue, including on how the sector can get involved with the forthcoming Green Deal, our new programme to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock.

For example, in addition to the Big Society event I hosted last month, this month I am holding a breakfast for social housing providers, including local authorities.

Solar Power: Housing

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2011, *Official Report*, column 341W, on solar power: housing, whether he has received any representations from the solar photovoltaic sector on regulations for the installation of solar photovoltaics in domestic properties. [64339]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers meet regularly with industry representatives to discuss a range of issues. It has been the practice of successive Administrations not to reveal details of such meetings.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2011, *Official Report*, column 1071W, on solar power: housing, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on whether local councils are implementing correctly planning regulations for the installation of solar photovoltaics on domestic properties. [64720]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers meet regularly with their counterparts from the Department for Communities and Local Government and other Government Departments to discuss a range of issues. It has been the practice of successive Administrations not to reveal details of such meetings.

Utilities: Competition

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on levels of competition between domestic energy suppliers. [64403]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with officials and Ministers of other Government Departments on a regular basis to discuss energy market issues.

The energy regulator Ofgem monitors the market closely.

In their retail market review, Ofgem did not find evidence of a cartel among the Big 6 energy suppliers, but identified a number of barriers to competition. They have recently consulted on proposals to tackle the issues identified.

DECC is cutting red tape for smaller suppliers to boost competition in retail energy markets.

Visits Abroad: Saudi Arabia

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the purpose was of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011. [58856]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The purpose of the visit was to reinforce the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Gulf Initiative, both at the political and economic levels, to hold discussions on oil price and Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries issues, and to open discussions on commercial opportunities and investment projects in relation to the Gulf States. The visit to Saudi Arabia was part of a three-day visit to the region which also took in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library the schedule of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011. [58857]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The travel plans of Ministers are not for public disclosure for security reasons.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what costs were incurred in each category of expenditure for the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011. [58858]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

Flight costs were £3734.62 and were met from UK Trade and Investment's budget. The Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my noble Friend Lord Marland, stayed at the residence of the UK ambassador in Riyadh which meant that no accommodation costs were incurred. Lord Marland does not receive a ministerial salary.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the outcomes were of the visit by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to Saudi Arabia in May 2011; and if he will make a statement. [58859]

Mr Bellingham: I have been asked to reply.

The Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change my noble Friend Lord Marland's visit strengthened producer-consumer dialogue on a wide range of energy issues, including oil and gas market evolution and nuclear projects. He opened talks on potential major commercial deals, and reported back to Government on new commercial opportunities. He was also able to inform major Gulf investors about key UK inward investment opportunities which have laid essential groundwork for his future follow-up visit with a trade and investment delegation in his capacity as chairman of the ambassadors' network.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund *(a)* has been and *(b)* will be used to pay health sector workers' salaries. [64560]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: In 2009-10, the Department for International Development (DFID) contributed £60 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), of which £3.6 million went nominally to the health sector to help the Government of Afghanistan pay the salaries of health workers and other health-related recurrent costs. It is not possible to disaggregate recurrent expenditure on health workers alone without incurring disproportionate costs.

In the absence of an IMF programme, used by the international community as an indicator of sound economic and financial management, DFID is delaying payment to the ARTF.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to support smallholder agriculture following the end of disbursements under the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative in 2012; and if he will make a statement. [64195]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development supports smallholders in many ways. Over the next four years, the Department will spend an average of £65 million annually on agricultural research, most of which is intended to benefit smallholders. Key multilateral partners such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, The Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme; but also the European Commission and its Humanitarian Department provide significant support to smallholders. Almost half of the programmes in our 27 bilateral focus countries prioritise support to smallholders. Our Africa regional programme also supports marketing and trade for African smallholders.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made on its plans to reduce maternal mortality rates in the developing world by 2015. [63935]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government's 'Choices for women' Framework for Results outlines how the UK will save the lives of at least 50,000 women during pregnancy and childbirth and 250,000 newborn babies by 2015. The framework has a focus on increasing access to skilled health workers and commits to supporting at least two million safe deliveries and ensuring long-lasting improvements in maternity services.

Department for International Development (DFID) country programmes have been finalising their operational plans for the next four years which will contribute to the Framework for Results commitments These plans are now available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Publications/?p=OP

Developing Countries: Tuberculosis

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to help reduce stigma and discrimination in respect of tuberculosis in developing countries. [63897]

Mr O'Brien: It is crucial that we work with others to address stigma, discrimination and the exclusion of key populations. These are barriers which hamper people from accessing life-saving prevention and treatment. The coalition Government work to address these barriers through our bilateral and multilateral support to combat tuberculosis (TB). For example, in advance of its 11th funding round, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, issued guidance on taking a rights based approach to the design of TB programmes. It also recommends that countries specifically consider activities and programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination in their TB proposals.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting UN Millennium Development Goal 6 on tuberculosis; and whether he expects the 2015 targets to be met. [63898]

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the progress towards UN Millennium Development Goal 6 on tuberculosis; and whether he expects the objectives to be met by the 2015 deadline. [63930]

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of progress in relation to UN Millennium Development Goal 6 to halt and begin to reverse the tuberculosis endemic and to halve TB prevalence and death rates by 2015 compared with 1990 levels. [64139]

Mr O'Brien: Significant progress has been made since 1995, with 41 million patients successfully treated under DOTS resulting in 6 million lives saved. Globally, rates of incidence, prevalence and mortality are declining. Incidence rates are falling slowly by 1% a year, following a peak at 140 cases per 100,000 population (2004). Mortality rates have fallen by one third since 1990, and prevalence rates are also in decline. WHO projections indicate that the target of halving mortality by 2015 compared with 1990 would be achieved at global level.

The target of halving prevalence by 2015 may present challenges at the global level due to slower than expected progress in the African and South East Asian regions. Halving of prevalence has already been achieved in the Americas. WHO projections suggest that the Western Pacific, and the Eastern Mediterranean are on track. The European Region may achieve the target by 2015.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to encourage industrial development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of these steps. [63899]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a number of product development partnerships to encourage industrial development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for tuberculosis. This includes support to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND); the Global Alliance for TB Drugs; and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. These initiatives are making progress. For instance, FIND has helped develop a new diagnostic for rapid detection of TB ('GenXpert'). This may help shorten the time to diagnosis and cut transmission, thus preventing new cases in future. FIND are also working on how they can adapt these tools for use in more peripheral settings.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to promote implementation and delivery of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis. [63900]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government remain committed to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis deaths by 2015, as highlighted in 'UK aid: Changing lives, delivering results'. In support of this objective, and to help to drive progress towards zero HIV infections and deaths by 2015, scaling up access to tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis, treatment care and support is a strategic priority in the coalition Government's recently launched 'Towards zero infections: The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world'.

We support prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB through our bilateral and multilateral support. This is done particularly through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, including TB-HIV, and through supporting co-ordinated action through the Stop TB Partnership. We also invest in research and product development into more effective treatment and vaccines; we support countries to strengthen health systems to deliver quality TB programmes; and we work with our partners to tackle the risk factors for TB, including poverty and malnutrition.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of improved drugs, vaccines and diagnostics on rates of tuberculosis in developing countries. [63901]

Mr O'Brien: The contribution of new drugs and technologies on the levels of tuberculosis (TB) in developing countries could be significant, but there are limitations. While most TB patients can be cured with present drug regimens, the 2050 elimination target is far more likely to be achieved with a combination of improved diagnostics, drugs and vaccines that can detect and treat both latent TB infection and active disease. Recent modelling for the WHO has suggested that a combination of a neonatal pre-exposure TB vaccine, a two-month treatment regimen effective against drug-susceptible and resistant strains of TB, and a novel point-of-care diagnostic test could potentially reduce the incidence of TB by 71%. There are however questions remaining about the effect of these in high HIV prevalent areas.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to help reduce stigma and discrimination in relation to tuberculosis in developing countries. [63929]

Mr O'Brien: It is crucial that we work with others to address stigma, discrimination and the exclusion of key populations. These are barriers which hamper people from accessing life saving prevention and treatment. The coalition Government work to address these barriers through our bilateral and multilateral support to combat tuberculosis (TB). For example, in advance of its 11th funding round, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, issued guidance on taking a rights based approach to the design of TB programmes. It also recommends that countries specifically consider activities and programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination in their TB proposals.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to encourage industrial development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such steps. [63931]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a number of product development partnerships to encourage industrial development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for tuberculosis. This includes support to the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Global Alliance for TB Drugs; and the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation. These initiatives are making progress. For instance, FIND has helped develop a new diagnostic for rapid detection of TB ('GenXpert'). This may help shorten the time to diagnosis and cut transmission, thus preventing new cases in future. FIND are also working on how they can adapt these tools for use in more peripheral settings.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to help ensure effective implementation and delivery of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis. [63932]

Mr O'Brien: The coalition Government remain committed to supporting global efforts to halve tuberculosis deaths by 2015, as highlighted in "UK aid: Changing lives, delivering results". In support of this objective, and to help to drive progress towards zero HIV infections and deaths by 2015, scaling up access to tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis, treatment care and support is a strategic priority in the coalition Government's recently launched "Towards zero infections: The UK's position paper on HIV in the developing world".

We support prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB through our bilateral and multilateral support. This is done particularly through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, including TB-HIV, and through supporting coordinated action through the Stop TB Partnership. We also invest in

research and product development into more effective treatment and vaccines; we support countries to strengthen health systems to deliver quality TB programmes; and we work with our partners to tackle the risk factors for TB, including poverty and malnutrition.

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of improved drugs, vaccines and diagnostics on rates of tuberculosis in developing countries. [63933]

Mr O'Brien: The contribution of new drugs and technologies on the levels of tuberculosis (TB) in developing countries could be significant, but there are limitations. While most TB patients can be cured with present drug regimens, the 2050 elimination target is far more likely to be achieved with a combination of improved diagnostics, drugs and vaccines that can detect and treat both latent TB infection and active disease. Recent modelling for the WHO has suggested that a combination of a neonatal pre-exposure TB vaccine, a two-month treatment regimen effective against drug-susceptible and resistant strains of TB, and a novel point-of-care diagnostic test could potentially reduce the incidence of TB by 71%. There are however questions remaining about the effect of these in high HIV prevalent areas.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided for research and development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis in developing countries in each of the last five years. [63902]

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department provided for research and development of *(a)* diagnostics, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* vaccines for tuberculosis in each of the last five years. [63934]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a range of research programmes to promote the development of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines for tuberculosis (TB). These include: the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Global Alliance for TB Drugs, and the Aeras Global T6 Vaccine Foundation. Funding amounts for the last five years are provided in the following table.

DFID funding

£

	FIND	*Aeras*	*Global Alliance for TB Drugs*	*Total*
2010-11	500,000	5,500,000	7,313,616	13,313,616
2009-10	1,500,000	4,000,000	5,686,384	11,186,384
2008-09	0	0	3,900,000	3,900,000
2007-08	0	0	900,000	900,000
2006-07	0	0	1,800,000	1,800,000
Total	2,000,000	9,500,000	19,600,000	31,100,000

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to address stigma and discrimination in developing countries in relation to tuberculosis. [64138]

Mr O'Brien: It is crucial that we work with others to address stigma, discrimination and the exclusion of key populations. These are barriers which hamper people from accessing life saving prevention and treatment. The coalition Government work to address these barriers through our bilateral and multilateral support to combat tuberculosis (TB). For example, in advance of its 11th funding round, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), which is the largest single provider of international funds to fight TB, issued guidance on taking a rights based approach to the design of TB programmes. It also recommends that countries specifically consider activities and programmes to reduce stigma and discrimination in their TB proposals.

Ethiopia: Droughts

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to respond to the drought in Ethiopia. [64502]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK Government are providing significant funding for the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) in Ethiopia to help feed 1.3 million people for three months, and to provide nutritional supplements for 329,000 malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

We are also supporting an innovative safety net programme in Ethiopia to help increase resilience to drought and hunger in the longer term. With UK support, 7.8 million people in Ethiopia have access to cash or food in exchange for work, through the Productive Safety Net Programme. Department for International Development (DFID) funding is also helping create 60,000 new jobs that are not dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

Horn of Africa: Food

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is taking steps to increase food security in the Horn of Africa. [64503]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is making long-term investments in safety net, disaster risk reduction and wealth creation programmes that aim to increase food security in the Horn of Africa.

In Ethiopia we are supporting 7.8 million people with cash and food aid transfers through the National Safety Net Programme which provides cash or food in return for work. We are also supporting a programme to create 60,000 new jobs that are not dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

In Kenya DFID is funding a hunger safety net programme which makes regular cash payments to 60,000 of the poorest households. Monitoring suggests that those receiving these payments are significantly more resilient to the current drought than others living in these regions.

In Somalia, my Department is currently supporting pastoralists and farmers to strengthen their resilience through emergency livelihood protection activities. We are also supporting a four-year wealth creation programme which aims to improve economic and employment prospects for women and young people in Somalia. It aims to create 45,000 long-term jobs by 2015.

Horn of Africa: Politics and Government

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* women and *(b)* children of the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. [64504]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: We estimate that around 10 million people in the Horn of Africa are currently in need of emergency relief. About half of those are in Ethiopia, and the other half split between Kenya and Somalia. A large proportion of those in need are women and children. Nutritional surveys in southern and south eastern parts of the region indicate prevailing rates of malnutrition above emergency thresholds. The situation in the Somali refugee camps is especially concerning. Acute child malnutrition among new arrivals to camps in Kenya and Ethiopia is running at 33-40%, more than double emergency levels.

The UK's humanitarian response to the crisis is specifically targeting women and children. Our new contribution to the World Food Programme in Ethiopia will help ensure that 329,000 malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers receive supplementary food. Ongoing UK support to Kenya and Somalia since October 2010 has been used to treat acute malnutrition in more than 140,000 children and 17,500 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

Kenya: Refugees

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the refugee situation in Kenya in light of the drought in the Horn of Africa; and whether his Department is providing support to respond to the situation in those refugee camps. [64501]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports there are now more than 394,000 Somali refugees in Kenya. The situation is now an emergency in the Dadaab refugee camps, with 1,300 new arrivals reported daily in the last two weeks. Congestion and conditions remain unacceptable. UNHCR and other agencies have absorbed this ongoing influx and continue to provide some minimum services. These are now severely stretched and needs are not being fully met.

The UK provided £2 million to UNHCR during 2010-11, to meet the basic relief needs of 20,000 refugees. Given the deteriorating situation, we are in the process of increasing this support in 2011.

Sierra Leone: Health Services

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what outcomes he expects from his Department's support for health sector salaries in Sierra Leone. [64559]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is supporting the delivery of the Free Health Care Initiative for pregnant and nursing women and children under five years old which was launched by the President of Sierra Leone in April 2010. The purpose of the UK's support is to reduce maternal and child mortality in Sierra Leone which is among the worst in the world.

The support to health workers salaries has both retained and increased the number of health personnel in the public health sector which is better able to manage the increase in demand for services as a result of the Free Health Care Initiative. The aim of the Initiative is to provide free health services for up to 460,000 women and 1 million children each year. After its first year of operation there has been solid progress with 1,993,000 additional under five consultations of which 1,160,000 were treated for malaria; 39,100 more women delivered their babies in a health facility; and 12,000 maternity complications were managed in health facilities with a 60% drop in the fatality rate in these cases.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that health workers are deployed to the parts of Sierra Leone in greatest need. [64561]

Mr O'Brien: The UK is supporting the delivery of the Free Health Care Initiative for pregnant and nursing women and children under five years old which was launched by the President of Sierra Leone in April 2010. The purpose of the UK's support is to reduce maternal and child mortality in Sierra Leone which is among the worst in the world.

As a result of the UK's support over 2,000 additional health workers were recruited in 2010 to help meet the increased demand for services across the country including those areas in greatest need. To date we have provided technical expertise to work closely with the Human Resources Department of the Ministry of Health to develop a robust national human resources policy and strategy to address the challenges of coverage and spread in the medium to long term. In the short term the World Bank has this year introduced a programme to incentivise personnel working in the rural areas of the country. We are collaborating closely with the World Bank on this programme to ensure health workers in the rural areas remain in post.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many additional doctors, nurses, midwives and other health workers he expects *(a)* to be required and *(b)* his Department to fund in Sierra Leone in order to reach the targets on maternal mortality and assisted births set out in his Department's operational plan for that country. [64562]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The UK is supporting the delivery of the Free Health Care Initiative for pregnant and nursing women and children under five years old which was launched by the President of Sierra Leone in April 2010. The purpose of the UK's support is to reduce maternal and child mortality in Sierra Leone which is among the worst in the world.

The UK has provided the Human Resources Department of the Ministry of Health with specialised technical support so that it can carry out an in-depth analysis of the staffing they currently have, what staffing they should have as a minimum in light of the size of population, and how they intend filling the staffing gap. This will then result in a clear strategy by the end of this year which maps out the numbers and mix of skills they need in the medium to long term, how they intend putting

these in place and what resources are available to enable them to implement the strategy. The UK will work closely with the Ministry of Health and non-governmental partners to ensure UK resources are targeted at the priority skills needed to address maternal health and assisted births.

Somalia: Droughts

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to respond to the drought in Somalia. [64500]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: My Department is already supporting ongoing activities in Somalia that are reaching more than 1.3 million vulnerable people this year with emergency relief assistance. This includes treatment of starving children, access to health care, essential vaccinations, water, sanitation, food assistance, shelter and activities to protect the livelihoods of pastoralists and farmers.

My officials are identifying priority activities and partners who are best placed to respond rapidly to the deteriorating situation. My Department is working with other donors to support humanitarian agencies increase their current emergency response.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 21 June 2011

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of recipients of employment and support allowance there would be in the *(a)* work related activity group and *(b)* assessment phase (i) with and (ii) without time-limiting in place for each financial year from 2011-12 to 2015-16. [55205]

[Official Report, 16 May 2011, Vol. 528, c. 94-5W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Chris Grayling:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms) on 16 May 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Chris Grayling: The first table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) in the work related activity group (WRAG) with and without time-limiting in force.

Contributory ESA caseload in the WRAG

	With time-limiting in force	*Without time-limiting in force*
2011-12	200,000	200,000
2012-13	260,000	400,000
2013-14	200,000	590,000
2014-15	160,000	730,000
2015-16	40,000	720,000

The second table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory ESA in the assessment phase with and without time-limiting in force.

Contributory ESA caseload in the assessment phase

	With time-limiting in force	*Without time-limiting in force*
2011-12	180,000	180,000
2012-13	110,000	190,000
2013-14	180,000	190,000
2014-15	170,000	180,000
2015-16	160,000	170,000

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 claimants and are based on Budget 2011 forecasts for the ESA time-limiting proposal. Caseloads for contributory ESA have been given as people on income-related ESA or credits only ESA will be unaffected by the time limiting proposal.

For those who leave the contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people by 2015-16, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA. And those who do not qualify for income-related ESA may remain on ESA on a credits-only basis.

The correct answer should have been as follows. The changes are identified in bold font.

Chris Grayling: The first table shows the estimated future recipients of contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) in the work related activity group (WRAG) with and without time-limiting in force.

Contributory ESA caseload in the WRAG

	With time-limiting in force	*Without time-limiting in force*
2011-12	200,000	200,000
2012-13	**190,000**	400,000
2013-14	200,000	590,000
2014-15	160,000	730,000
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2012-13	**180,000**	190,000
2013-14	180,000	190,000
2014-15	170,000	180,000
2015-16	160,000	170,000

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 claimants and are based on Budget 2011 forecasts for the ESA time-limiting proposal. Caseloads for contributory ESA have been given as people on income-related ESA or credits only ESA will be unaffected by the time limiting proposal.

For those who leave the contributory ESA as a result of the time limit, it is estimated that around 60%, or approximately 400,000 people by 2015-16, are expected to be fully or partially compensated by income-related ESA, so will retain entitlement to ESA. And those who do not qualify for income-related ESA may remain on ESA on a credits-only basis.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of excluding from the 365 day period of eligibility for contributory employment and support allowance any days that the claimant spends in the assessment phase in each of the next five financial years. [57661]

[Official Report, 7 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 266-67W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Chris Grayling:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Ham (Stephen Timms) on 7 June 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG). The intention is that time spent in the assessment phase will count towards the 365 day period of the time limit. In total the policy is expected to generate annual benefit savings of £400 million in 2012-13 rising to £1.1 billion by 2014-15.

If the proposal were to change so that the time limit period is extended by the length of time it takes for each person to undergo a work capability assessment to determine entitlement to ESA, this would reduce the expected benefit savings.

The following table shows the expected change in the annual savings if the time spent in the assessment phase were excluded from the period of the time limit. It shows estimated overall costs to the Exchequer of around £200 million by 2014-15.

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
Estimated savings from current policy (£ million)	420	780	1,090	1,330	1,380
Change to estimated savings (£ million)	-150	-20	-20	-20	-10
% change from current policy	-36	-2	-1	-1	-1
Change in the total numbers affected by time limiting	-80,000	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000

Note:
Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £10 million or 10,000 claimants.

The correct answer should have been as follows. Changes are identified in bold font.

Chris Grayling: As part of the Welfare Reform Bill we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance (ESA) and who are placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG). The intention is that time spent in the assessment phase will count towards the 365 day period of the time limit. In total the policy is expected to generate annual benefit savings of £400 million in 2012-13 rising to £1.1 billion by 2014-15.

If the proposal were to change so that the time limit period is extended by the length of time it takes for each person to undergo a work capability assessment to determine entitlement to ESA, this would reduce the expected benefit savings.

The following table shows the expected change in the annual savings if the time spent in the assessment phase were excluded from the period of the time limit. It shows estimated overall costs to the Exchequer of around **£60 million** by 2014-15.

	2012-13	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*2015-16*	*2016-17*
Estimated savings from current policy (£ million)	420	780	1,090	1,330	1,380
Change to estimated savings (£ million)	**-20**	-20	-20	-20	**-20**
% change from current policy	**-4**	-3	-2	-1	-1
Change in the total numbers affected by time limiting	**-10,000**	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000	-10,000

Note:
Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £10 million or 10,000 claimants.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 29 June 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations: Finance

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department provided to each local authority for community cohesion projects in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* each of the last three financial years. [59346]

[Official Report, 15 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 787-91W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Andrew Stunell:

An error has been identified in the text of the Minister's answer given to the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 15 June 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Andrew Stunell: Between 2008-09 and 2010-11 funding for cohesion projects was provided to local authorities via unringfenced Area Based Grant In 2011-12, general unringfenced funding of £190.540 million was allocated to local authorities in England through Local Services Support Grant with the freedom to use it to meet locally identified priorities, including community cohesion.

The following table shows funding allocation for cohesion projects for each local authority from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Amber Valley Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Arun District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Ashfield District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Ashford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Barking and Dagenham London Borough	116,471	213,529	252,353
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Basildon District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Bassetlaw District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Berwick-upon-Tweed	26,471	0	0
Bexley London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Blackpool Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Bolsover District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Boston Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Bournemouth Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Breckland District Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Burnley Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Carlisle City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Cherwell District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Cheshire East UA	0	48,529	57,353
Cheshire West and Chester UA	0	48,529	57,353
Chester-le-Street	26,471	0	0
Corby Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Craven District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Crawley Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Croydon London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Crewe and Nantwich	26,471	0	26,471
Dartford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Derwentside	49,412	0	0
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Dover District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Durham County UA	0	320,293	378,529
Ealing London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Easington	49,412	0	0
East Staffordshire Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Ellesmere Port and Neston	26,471	0	0
Erewash Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Fenland District Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Gosport Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Gravesham Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Greenwich London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Halton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Harlow District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hartlepool Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hastings Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Havant Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Havering London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
County of Herefordshire District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hertsmere Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Hillingdon London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Hounslow London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Huntingdonshire District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Hyndburn Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough	0	0	0
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Lancaster City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Lincoln City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Liverpool City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Luton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Mansfield District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Medway Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Mendip District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Middlesbrough Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newcastle upon Tyne Metropolitan District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Newham London Borough	72,353	132,647	156,765
North East Lincolnshire Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
North Lincolnshire Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Northampton Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Northumberland County UA	0	139,117	164,412
Nottingham City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Oswestry	26,471	0	0
Pendle Borough Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Peterborough City Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Plymouth City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Portsmouth City Council	49,412	90,588	107,059

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Redbridge London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Redditch Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Rossendale Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Rushmoor Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Salford Metropolitan District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Scarborough Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Sedgefield	49,412	0	0
Sedgemoor District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Selby District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Sheffield City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Shropshire County UA	26,471	97,058	114,706
Slough Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
South Holland District Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
South Kesteven District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
South Somerset District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Southampton City Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	95,294	174,706	206,471
Sunderland City Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Swale Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tamworth Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Telford and Wrekin Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Tendring District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Thanet District Council	72,353	132,647	156,765
Thurrock Council	116,471	213,529	252,353
Torbay Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Tower Hamlets London Borough	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Waltham Forest London Borough	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wansbeck	49,412	0	0

Communities and Local Government Area Based Grant: Cohesion

Local authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Watford Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Waveney District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wiltshire County UA	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Woking Borough Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Worthing Borough Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Wycombe District Council	49,412	90,588	107,059
Wyre Forest District Council	26,471	48,529	57,353
Total	6,000,040	10,999,960	13,000,016

The correct answer should have been as follows:

Andrew Stunell: Between 2008-09 and 2010-11 funding for cohesion projects was provided to local authorities via unringfenced Area Based Grant. The following table shows cohesion funding allocated to local authorities from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

For this spending period (2011-12 to 2014-15) the Government have given more freedom to local authorities to decide how to spend their money. Local authorities have an estimated revenue spending power of £52.7 billion in 2011-12, which is unringfenced, and is available to them to spend on local priorities, which may include community cohesion.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 4 July 2011

TREASURY

Taxation: Domicile

Mr Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of non-domiciled UK taxpayers who will pay the annual levy in *(a)* 2011-12 and *(b)* 2012-13; [51750]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of non-resident taxpayers between 2009 and 2010. [51762]

[Official Report, 15 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 806-07W]

Letter of correction from Mr David Gauke:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 15 June 2011. The error relates to incorrect figures in the 2012-13 column of the table.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Gauke: There is currently a £30,000 annual charge for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least seven of the past nine years and wish to retain access to the remittance basis of taxation. In Budget 2011, the Government announced that it would consult on raising this charge to £50,000 for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least 12 years with a view to implementing this change from the 2012-13 tax year. The number of individuals estimated to pay the annual charges of £30,000 and £50,000 are:

Estimated number of individuals paying the annual £30,000 or £50,000 charge

Rounded	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
£30,000	7,400	5,900
£50,000	0	3,700
Total	7,400	9,600

Those individuals liable to the charge but who choose not to pay it will instead be liable to UK taxation on their worldwide income and gains.

The Government have no estimates for the change in the number of non-resident taxpayers between 2009 and 2010. Information relating to the tax year 2010-11, ending in April 2011, is not yet available.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Gauke: There is currently a £30,000 annual charge for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least seven of the past nine years and wish to retain access to the remittance basis of taxation. In Budget 2011, the Government announced that it would consult on raising this charge to £50,000 for non-domiciled individuals who have been resident for at least 12 years with a view to implementing this change from the 2012-13 tax year. The number of individuals estimated to pay the annual charges of £30,000 and £50,000 are:

Estimated number of individuals paying the annual £30,000 or £50,000 charge

Rounded	*2011-12*	*2012-13*
£30,000	7,400	**2,600**
£50,000	0	3,700
Total	7,400	**6,300**

Those individuals liable to the charge but who choose not to pay it will instead be liable to UK taxation on their worldwide income and gains.

The Government have no estimates for the change in the number of non-resident taxpayers between 2009 and 2010. Information relating to the tax year 2010-11, ending in April 2011, is not yet available.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 5 July 2011

TREASURY

Civil List

The following is an extract from the opening statement given during the debate on the Civil List by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the right hon. Member for Tatton (Mr Osborne) on 30 June 2011.

Mr George Osborne: Let me now turn to some of the detail, recognising that in a fortnight's time or so people will have had a chance to study the legislation and we will have a longer debate on Second Reading. First, we need a funding mechanism that prevents the sovereign coming to Parliament each year for resources, and that provides funding broadly in line with the growth of the economy. There is such a mechanism at hand, through the historical connection with the Crown Estate, so I propose that from 2013-14 the royal household receives 15% of the profits made by the Crown Estate in the two years prior. That is an average.

[Official Report, 30 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 1146.]

Letter of correction from Mr George Osborne:

An error has been identified in the opening statement given on 30 June 2011. The correct answer should have been:

Mr George Osborne: Let me now turn to some of the detail, recognising that in a fortnight's time or so people will have had a chance to study the legislation and we will have a longer debate on Second Reading. First, we need a funding mechanism that prevents the sovereign coming to Parliament each year for resources, and that provides funding broadly in line with the growth of the economy. There is such a mechanism at hand, through the historical connection with the Crown Estate, so I propose that from 2013-14 the royal household receives **the equivalent of** 15% of the profits made by the Crown Estate **in the year two years earlier.**

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 6 July 2011

HEALTH

Infant Mortality: Research

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department for health research was allocated to research on *(a)* maternal and *(b)* fetal health in each of the last five years; [59760]

(2) what proportion of the funding allocated by his Department for *(a)* maternal and *(b)* fetal health research was allocated to research into stillbirth prevention; [59761]

(3) how much his Department has spent on research into *(a)* the causes and prevention of stillbirth, *(b)* sudden infant death syndrome and *(c)* preventing neonatal deaths in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [59762]

[Official Report, 16 June 2011, Vol. 529, c. 911-12W.]

Letter of correction from Simon Burns:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) on 16 June 2011. The answer said that the Department is currently funding the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries but it should have said that the Department funded the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries until March 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Simon Burns: The Department funds research through both the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme (PRP).

Estimated spend by the NIHR and PRP relating to maternal and foetal health is as follows.

	Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research (£ million)	*Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research as a proportion of total NIHR revenue and PRP spend (percentage)*
2006-07	4.4	0.6
2007-08	4.7	0.6
2008-09	9.0	1.1
2009-10	10.9	1.2
2010-11	12.7	1.3

The Department does not hold specific figures for the proportion of funding allocated to research into stillbirth prevention, preventing neonatal deaths or sudden infant death syndrome.

The Government fund a range of research of relevance to maternal and foetal health, including stillbirth and sudden infant death syndrome.

For example, the Department's Policy Research Programme has funded a Policy Research Unit in Maternal Health and Care at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU), University of Oxford. Research themes include pregnancy loss, perinatal morbidity, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

The Department also funds research relevant to stillbirth. For example, through an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research, the Department is funding a study entitled "Improving Pregnancy Outcomes in Obese Women". Running from 2008 to 2012, this study aims to develop an individually tailored "life style" programme for obese women.

Furthermore, the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre has an ongoing programme of research on women's health. A major focus of this research is understanding the determinants of stillbirth risk and using this understanding to improve clinical care of pregnant women.

In addition, the Government currently fund the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE), which publishes an annual report into perinatal mortality. CMACE monitors changes in perinatal mortality rates, and identifies causes and risk factors. In addition to providing a national overview, CMACE also provides localised information to enable maternity units to review and monitor their own rates so that action can be taken to improve services.

The correct answer would have been:

Mr Simon Burns: The Department funds research through both the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Policy Research Programme (PRP).

Estimated spend by the NIHR and PRP relating to maternal and foetal health is as follows.

	Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research (£ million)	*Estimated spend on maternal and foetal health research as a proportion of total NIHR revenue and PRP spend (percentage)*
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The Government fund a range of research of relevance to maternal and foetal health, including stillbirth and sudden infant death syndrome.

For example, the Department's Policy Research Programme has funded a Policy Research Unit in Maternal Health and Care at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU), University of Oxford. Research themes include pregnancy loss, perinatal morbidity, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

The Department also funds research relevant to stillbirth. For example, through an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research, the Department is funding a study entitled "Improving Pregnancy Outcomes in Obese Women". Running from 2008 to 2012, this study aims to develop an individually tailored "life style" programme for obese women.

Furthermore, the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre has an ongoing programme of research on women's health. A major focus of this research is

understanding the determinants of stillbirth risk and using this understanding to improve clinical care of pregnant women.

In addition, the Government **funded until March 2011** the Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries (CMACE), which publishes an annual report into perinatal mortality. CMACE monitors changes in perinatal mortality rates, and identifies causes and risk factors. In addition to providing a national overview, CMACE also provides localised information to enable maternity units to review and monitor their own rates so that action can be taken to improve services.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: National Audit Office

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates representatives of the Audit Commission dined with representatives of the National Audit Office paid for by the public purse since 2007-08; in which restaurants each meal took place; and at what cost. [61062]

[Official Report, 20 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 50W.]

Letter of correction from Robert Neill:

The Audit Commission have identified an error in the answer they provided to my Department which accompanied the written answer given to the hon. Member for Burton (Andrew Griffiths) on 20 June 2011. Professor Sir Andrew Likierman NAO was omitted from the list.

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 20 June 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission has paid for meals with the NAO on five occasions since 2007/08:

1 November 2007 the then MD, Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO for lunch. Information on the location and cost is no longer available.

3 December 2007 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO, dined at L'Escargot at a cost of £103.39;

5 May 2009 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive, Michael O'Higgins, Chairman and Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO dined at Qurinale at a cost of £240.19;

14 September 2009 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO at the Ebury Wine Bar at a cost of £53.04; and

7 April 2010 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO at the Footstool restaurant at a cost of £22.50.

The Commission dined with the NAO on three occasions where the Commission did not pay.

11 June 2007 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive and Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO met for dinner at Wiltons;

15 January 2009 David Walker, MD Communications met with Gabrielle Cohen, Assistant Auditor General NAO for lunch at the Ebury Wine Bar; and

2 February 2011 Eugene Sullivan, Chief Executive had a breakfast meeting with the Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO, Amyas Morse at the Mint Hotel.

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 20 June 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission has paid for meals with the NAO on five occasions since 2007/08:

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5 May 2009 Steve Bundred, Chief Executive, Michael O'Higgins, Chairman, **Professor Sir Andrew Likierman, Chairman NAO** and Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General of the NAO dined at Qurinale at a cost of £240.19;

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Ministerial Correction

Thursday 7 July 2011

HOME DEPARTMENT

Entry Clearances: Iraq

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the safety of Syria as a place for visa applicants in Iraq to collect their visas. [60862]

[Official Report, 21 June 2011, Vol. 530, c. 211W.]

Letter of correction from Damian Green:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on 21 June 2011.

The full answer given was as follows:

Damian Green: We are closely monitoring the security situation in Syria. Our visa application centre remains open for business and applicants are able to make their applications in the normal way. Applicants who live in Iraq can choose to visit Syria, Lebanon or Jordan to make their applications.

The correct answer should have been:

Damian Green: We are closely monitoring the security situation in Syria. Our visa application centre remains open for business and applicants are able to make their applications in the normal way. Applicants who live in Iraq, **however, are now directed to our visa application centres in Lebanon, Jordan or Turkey in order to lodge their applications.**